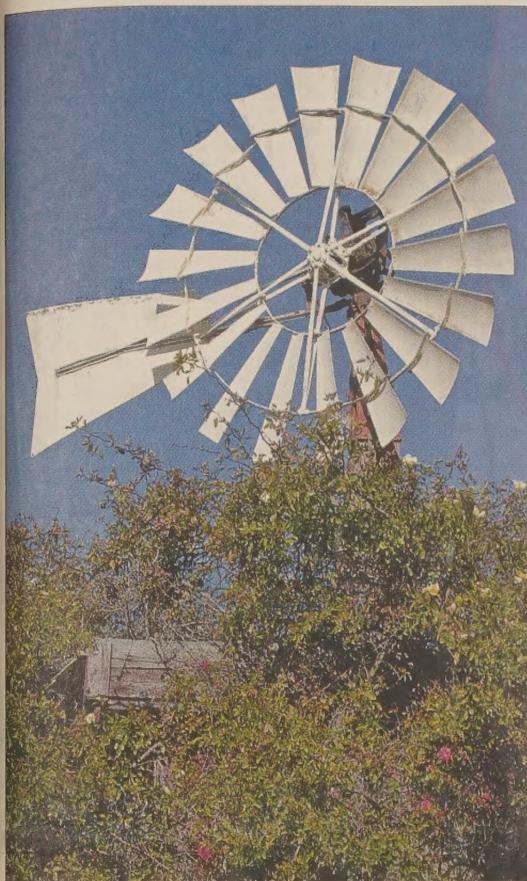


THE JOURNAL

• Friday, December 29, 2000 • 50 cents (tax included)

Holiday greetings The staff of the Journal wishes you a happy New Year**Arts** Emerging artists featured at Oakland gallery [C3]

THE CIRCA 1910 windmill is a neighborhood landmark.

JOANNA JHANDA

Windmill is a standing link to area's past

Earlier in the century the working well and water tank at the Manila Avenue property were not unusual in a more rural El Cerrito

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

In the yard of a Manila Avenue residence is a cast iron and wood reminder of olden times when streets were dirt, homes were farmhouses, and cows and chickens outnumbered people in the area.

When Ralph and Alice Dufour moved to their El Cerrito home in 1951, an old Flint & Walling windmill, with tank-house and above-ground water tank, was part of the package.

The old windmill and tank-house, apparently the last one of its kind in El Cerrito, still stand in the Dufour's front yard and people stop by and comment on it once in a while, Ralph Dufour said last week.

"When we came, they still had chickens here and used the water," Du-

four said to describe the area in the early 1950s. "The old Italian farmer behind us still had a goat when we came — and now that's all turned into this new development project."

Dufour dismantled the heavy water tank about 30 years ago — it was too much weight atop the old tank-house structure. The windmill is no longer connected to the well, but the well is good and the Dufours use water from it to water their garden.

Through the years, Dufour has pieced together some of the history of the windmill.

He was able to find out from the Flint & Walling company of Kendallville, Ind., that the windmill was made sometime prior to 1918, but the exact age of the machine is not known.

Dufour is not sure, but has been told that the windmill was obtained second-hand by a man named Glasson who owned the property in the 1920s. The windmill had been in use at another site, probably in El Cerrito, for sometime. The tank-house with windmill and water tank were erected at the present location in 1921 on Glasson's property.

Glasson apparently worked at a lumberyard in El Cerrito and grew vegetables and raised animals on his Manila Avenue property. "This one has open gears," Dufour said about the workings of the Flint & Walling. "You have to climb up there and pour oil into little reservoirs with cast iron covers," he added. "The windmill pumped water into the tank." When the Dufours bought the property in 1951 the windmill was still in operation, but over the years parts have been disconnected. A huge climbing rosebush grows up

Affordable units sought for project at lumber yard site

Project must rent 15% of its housing at affordable rates, says state redevelopment association

By Kate Darby Rauch
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — An upscale housing project proposed for downtown El Cerrito will be required to provide some affordable rentals — giving advocates for the elderly poor just what they wanted most for the holidays.

The 160-unit complex slated for the site of the former El Cerrito Mill and Lumber still requires final approval from the city.

But the developer's initial proposal did not include any affordable units, triggering cries of protest from residents concerned about the impact of skyrocketing

Bay Area rents, particularly on the low-income elderly.

State law, it appears, is on their side, a fact that may force the developer to come up with a new plan in which at least 15 percent of the apartments are offered at affordable rates.

The developers had planned to rent one- and two-bedroom apartments for roughly \$1,200 to \$2,000.

According to William Carlson, executive director of the Sacramento-based California Redevelopment Association, the 15-percent affordable housing requirement applies to all housing projects in redevelopment areas, regardless of whether they are city projects.

The Mill and Lumber Project is in a redevelopment zone, but it is not a redevelopment project and is being built without city assistance. That had led to some confusion among city officials and the developer about the affordability requirement.

The City Council last week — after hearing complaints about the lack of affordability — asked its staff to research

the issue.

If a new project doesn't include 15 percent of its units at affordable rates, the redevelopment agency must establish those units at a different location, Carlson said. And if the units can't be provided within the redevelopment zone, the requirement doubles to 30 percent.

"The city should have adopted an (affordability) requirement with the developer, or the redevelopment agency incurs the obligation to produce the affordable units," Carlson said.

"That's great news; it's a need in the community," said Janet James, a member of the city's Committee on Aging and administrator of Eskaton Hazel Shirley Manor, an affordable housing complex in El Cerrito with a waiting list of more than a hundred people.

"Rents are skyrocketing and seniors can't do it. Their income isn't going up in proportion to the increases. It's a big problem," James said.

John Baer, president of JMS develop-

See UNITS, Page A8

Grants could accelerate EC playground upgrade effort

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The "buy a brick" fund raising campaign for Cerrito Vista Park improvements may get a boost from the state. Unsafe and outdated play structures at the park may be replaced by a new toddler area using money from a state grant.

The City Council voted unanimously this week to apply for a \$50,000 grant provided by Proposition 12, a statewide initiative approved by voters in March.

The grant, administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, requires matching funds. Monica Kortz, the city's community services manager, said that another Proposition 12 fund, the Roberti-Z'berg Harris block

grant fund, will provide the city's matching fund component.

The council's vote authorized application for the \$50,000 grant; authorization for the Roberti-Z'berg Harris block grant will be addressed in a future council session. Kortz said the Proposition 12 funds guaranteed to the city total about \$293,000.

"In 1998 the city received playground equipment as a donation from Prospect Sierra School," Kortz told the council in her report. "This equipment was relocated to Cerrito Vista Park and then the related site improvements were undertaken as phase one of this two-phase project."

Kortz said the estimated cost of phase two is estimated at \$95,000. "The grant

funding would provide for 50 percent of the cost of the removal of the remaining outdated and unsafe play structure and creation of a modernized and protected toddler area behind the existing clubhouse," she said Monday night.

At its Dec. 13 meeting, the Park and Recreation Commission unanimously recommended that the City Council apply for the maximum \$50,000 grant amount. The commission has recommended using the Proposition 12 funds as well as private funds through the "buy a brick" effort and other grant funding to complete the Cerrito Vista project.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Jan Bridges said that although the grant

See GRANTS, Page A2

Pub doubles as weekend breakfast spot

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

KENSINGTON — Unbeknownst to many, the Circus Pub at Colusa Circle has been living a double-identity for some time now: fish-and-chips and Guinness by night, breakfast burrito by day.

Most people know it for its English-style grub, televised soccer and British bartenders.

But walk in on any Saturday or Sunday morning, and you'll be greeted with the aroma of coffee and various combinations of eggs, bacon and hash browns.

You'll also be treated to more inventive breakfast choices, such as gingerbread pancakes, Mexican-style breakfast burritos with chili verde, and fruit and yogurt "sundaes." Since the menu changes each weekend, cooks, waiters and clients are constantly polled for new ideas.

For the past year and a half, the pub has been converted to a breakfast bistro each weekend, under the direction of El Cerrito resident Lynn Sullivan.

The inside of the stone building on 389 Colusa Ave. resembles something one might encounter in Oxford, but it has gone through several incarnations over the years, including its time as Narsai's gourmet restaurant.

Now Sullivan is working to establish a weekend morning identity for the popular nighttime gathering place.

"We came in on Graham's coattails," said Sullivan, referring to pub owner Graham Simpson, who opened shop 13 years ago.

Running a business out of another business has its pros and cons. For



THE BRIGHTLY COLORED building at the Colusa circle is home to the Circus Pub where breakfast is served on weekends.

JOANNA JHANDA

starters, getting anyone to recognize that they are two separate entities.

"That's the hard thing," noted Sullivan. "Everyone thinks of us as just a part of Graham's."

The pub's appearance inside on a Sat-

urday morning is more or less the same as during the week, with only more light and less beer.

The atmosphere is every bit as chatty

See PUB, Page A12

See WINDMILL, Page A12

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Garden Club meets Jan. 11

The El Cerrito Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Linda Ann Vorobik, a botanist, illustrator and editor of "Fremonia," the California Native Plant Society Journal, will present a program on "How to Paint and Draw the Plants in Your Garden." Guests are welcome, \$3 at door. Details: 510-525-1669.

Live Music at Cafe Eclectica

Albany High School graduate Jeff Weinstein and friends perform at Cafe Eclectica, 1309 Solano Ave., Albany, Friday December 29 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$3, proceeds benefit Cafe Eclectica, a nonprofit teen cafe.

Input sought on arts survey

The El Cerrito Committee for Arts & Culture invites every resident and business owner in the city to complete a survey on the possibility of establishing an arts commission. Questionnaires should be returned by Jan. 10 to ECCAC c/o CECAC, PO Box 1276, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or put in one of the boxes the group has left in various places throughout the city, including the library, Community Center and the Senior Center. Copies of the survey are available at: www.elcerrirowire.com/pages/artsurvey.pdf and at the same locations as the boxes for returning them. The next meeting of the committee is Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at 1355 Arlington,

three blocks north of Arlington Park. If you have questions call Pam Fingado at 510-525-6239, Eve Ma at 510-234-4003, or Arlin Robins at 510-527-5303.

King Day parade in El Cerrito

El Cerrito's 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration will be held Jan. 15. This year's theme is "Holding Fast to the Dream." Everyone is welcome to join the march and rally. Assembly for the march begins at 10 a.m. at the El Cerrito Department of Motor Vehicles on Manila. The rally will begin at about 11 a.m. at the Community Center on Moeser. The event is sponsored by the El Cerrito Human Relations Commission, the El Cerrito Branch of the NAACP, and St. Peter CME Church.

Marge Collins elected chamber president

El Cerrito Chamber

By Sewall Glinternick

Popular civic leader Marge Collins has been elected unanimously to serve as president of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce for the coming year.

Other officers picked to serve under her included: June Bobbitt, first vice president; Larry Sanchez, second vice president; and Charlie Weaver, secretary/treasurer. Rounding out the executive committee in 2001 will be immediate past president Michael Klinger.

Collins, who served as second vice president of the Chamber in 2000, will be installed in her new office at special ceremonies Friday, Jan. 19, at a dinner to be held at the Mira Vista Gold and Country Club.

Active in the El Cerrito Chamber since 1972, the business group's new president once helped to form and served on the now dormant Chamber Women's Division.

Active for years on the local political scene, Collins served eight years under the city administrator in Piedmont before being elected to the El Cerrito City Council for two four-year terms.

In addition to serving as mayor here, Collins was president of the Kensington/El Cerrito Congress of Republicans and the Kensington Area Republican Women.

Collin's reputation as a local civic leader is a result of years of hard work in a wide variety of local organizations. In addition to participating in various singing groups, she is past president of such organizations as the Arlington Women's Club, the American Business Women's Association, the Soroptimist Club, and the Rotary Club's Inner Wheel.

Presently she is vice president of the Contra Costa Civic Theatre board and a volunteer in the Alta Bates "Telecare" program. Her husband of 30 years is well known retired local builder Marvin Collins.

Two newcomers, incumbents elected to board

Two newcomers and six incumbents have been elected to two-year terms on the chamber board of directors.

Named to their initial term on the Chamber's governing body were Martin Kaliski of Marty's Motors and Maria Gulaviz, Contra Costa County public relations officer.

All six incumbents running for office were elected to new terms on



CHAMBER manager Sewall Glinternick congratulates Marge Collins.

the Board. They include: Bob Winslow, Winslow Carpet Cleaning; Alex Essex, Financial Network Investment Corp.; June Bobbitt, Full Circle Travel; Harry Kiefer, Kiefer Furniture; Larry Sanchez, Marvin Collins Construction Co.; and Wil Chun, Mail Boxes Etc.

These eight newly-elected directors will be joining the following nine members who will be completing their term on the Board at the end of the year 2001: Charlie Weaver, CPA; Rena Bruton, Bank of the West; Marsha Conwill, Tradeway Furniture; Sil Addiego, Coldwell Banker-Real Estate; Michael Klinger, Sunset View Cemetery; Bea Doherty-Vincent, Doherty's Truck and Auto Rental; Marge Collins, Collins Property Management; Larry Seidell, Seidell Enterprises; and John Olivero, Olivero Plumbing.

In announcing the results of the election, the chamber leadership expressed appreciation to Gretchen Grover of EBMUD and Dick Dishner of Advanced Instruments, for showing their interest in the business organization by running for a seat on the board.

It's reinvestment time

Shortly after the first of the year

reinvestment statements will be mailed to all chamber members.

Chamber Manager Sewall Glinternick urged everyone to look for their dues notice and respond as soon as possible. "These dues," he explained, "support the Chamber's operating fund and help us to reach the organization's goals and objectives."

Glinternick also reminded members their reinvestment could be paid in two installments, if desired.

Giant giveaway highlights chamber christmas party

The El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce's final business luncheon of the year and annual Christmas party Dec. 19 drew a capacity crowd — and everyone present went home with a gift of some sort.

A full house was on hand at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club to enjoy a luncheon champagne reception hosted by retiring chamber president Michael Klinger and his wife, Jeannie, to socialize and to enjoy a delicious buffet luncheon and a musical program presented by a group of Salesian High School students un-

ited.

The couple had a long history of domestic violence, according to police, who are investigating the shooting as an act of self-defense. The woman has not been arrested.

The couple shared an apartment in Brentwood, but the woman often sought refuge at a friend's house in El Cerrito, said police Cmdr. Dan Hurley.

Larry Lister, 48, had come uninvited to the house in the 700 block of Colusa Street to talk to his 39-year-old companion Wednesday.

The two began arguing and he threatened to harm her, police said.

The woman retrieved a revolver she kept in her room in the house, police said.

"She thought he was going to hurt her so when he advanced at her, she fired," Hurley said.

The woman called 911 about 4:30 p.m. and said she shot her boyfriend.

Police found Lister at the bottom of a staircase with a single gunshot wound to the chest. He was pro-

Girlfriend fired fatal shot but may have acted in self-defense, police say

By Leslie Fulbright

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A Brentwood man was fatally shot by his girlfriend Wednesday afternoon after he charged at her, threatening to beat her, police said Thursday.

The couple had a long history of domestic violence, according to police, who are investigating the shooting as an act of self-defense. The woman has not been arrested.

The couple shared an apartment

Grants

FROM PAGE A1

funds will help, a lot needs to be done. "Fifty-thousand dollars doesn't go very far. We may feasibly only be able to get one very small piece of equipment because these things cost over \$100,000," Bridges said. She also said there are landscaping costs and costs to prepare the ground area off of it."

Additionally, Bridges pointed out that state guidelines mandate that playground equipment be age-appropriate. "The bigger play structures that were donated to the city from Prospect Sierra aren't really age-appropriate for younger kids," she pointed out. "The state mandates that you have to keep unlike ages separated. You can't have little 2-year-olds running in front of bigger equipment while bigger kids are jumping off of it."

Responding to questions from the

THE JOURNAL

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Community activist Pat Cafel honored

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — People who know her know she is someone special, but now it's official — at this week's City Council meeting El Cerrito Pat Cafel was presented with the California Emergency Services Association's silver award for exceptional effort.

The award was presented by Carrie Barneut, the emergency services coordinator in the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. It was to be presented to Cafel in a ceremony at South Lake Tahoe last October, but she was busy giving neighborhood emergency assistance team (NEAT) training in emergency preparedness. Cafel, a licensed nurse, has coordinated the NEAT program in El Cerrito and Kensington as a volunteer for the past six years.

Barneut said that Cafel is "one of a kind" and that the emergency services association "agreed with me that we needed to recognize her efforts that are definitely above and beyond that of other volunteers."

"It is really special," Barneut said about the award. "I was disappointed that she couldn't come up (to Tahoe) and be given the award. The California governor's director of emergency services was there and everything, but she was teaching a NEAT class so she couldn't go."

"She has developed the curricu-

lum for this preparedness program, organizes all of the classes, teaches most of the classes and designs annual preparedness exercises for the teams and public education events for the city," Barneut reported to the City Council.

Cafel also is one of four volunteer advisory committee members for the State Office of Emergency Services/Chevron-sponsored Bay Area Neighborhood Emergency Training consortium.

"I feel deeply honored to receive this award," Cafel said at Monday night's meeting. "I am fortunate to live in a community that has made a strong commitment to public safety."

Cafel said she is thankful that we have a City Council that has taken steps to mitigate hazards and seismically strengthen our public facilities," but added "there is much more to be done, as you all know, as a community, as a neighborhood and as an individual."

Mayor Larry Damon said "it pleases us too" to see Cafel's diligent work recognized and honored. "We hope you'll be with us for several years more, working just as hard," Damon said.

"I was very happy to be able to write a nomination letter," said Councilman Mark Friedman. "I was even happier that you won the award despite my nomination."

On Thursday, Dec. 7, 2000 at about noon I received the kind of phone call every school board member dreads. The superintendent's office was on the line. A student, Lamar Preston, had just been shot not far from Richmond High School.

I took a deep breath, looked toward the sky for some kind of inspiration, and tried to refocus on my work.

Later that afternoon, the second dreaded phone call came. Lamar had just been pronounced dead. I got out of my chair and walked around the block. Questions kept racing through my mind that I couldn't answer.

Why are our kids killing each other? Why do we as a community permit them to possess such awful guns? What can we as a school district, as a community, do that hasn't been tried already? How have we let our community deteriorate to such an awful state?

Today, as I write, it is early morning, Dec. 27, 2000. The West County Times is reporting two more shooting victims yesterday. This is the fourth shooting involving youths since early December!

I had first intended this column to be kind of a wrap of the year in review, of all of the great things that have happened: the reduction of our debt to the state, the passage of the landmark school bond, the increases in our test scores, providing a dou-

The Peace Millennium

West County School Watch

By Glen Price

bie digit raise to all employees, the list goes on.

But now, I keep coming back to the violence.

Friends, we simply have to do something urgent and something massive to deal with the reality that our children are facing, a climate that is filled with unprecedented violence.

Because I am a school board member I do not want this to be framed as a school issue. Not one of the four shootings this month occurred on a school campus. They very well could have, but the point is that this is a community issue and its solution will require all of us in the community working together.

So I am proposing we commit ourselves to the Peace Millennium, a time when, on the one hand, we refuse to accept violence by and against children and youth and, on the other, to the creation of the positive conditions in our schools and communities that enable our children to reach their full potential.

I am not proposing a new foundation or government-funded contract or program. It has to be a grass

roots movement like we have never seen before. City by city, neighborhood by neighborhood, street by street, and house by house.

The Peace Millennium Campaign will have to be organized like a well-organized grass roots political campaign with a campaign structure capable of reaching every household with children.

Where do we start? How about if we begin by truly guaranteeing that every young person within the boundaries of the West Contra Costa Unified School District has an ongoing link to a caring adult?

Are we in our hearts ready for this? I know as I write what an enormous task this will be and what tremendous commitment it will take. But can we accept the alternative? The Peace Millennium. It could indeed if we make it happen.

Last year at this time I wrote about the coming Jubilee season, the symbolism of Jubilee as a biblical metaphor for liberation from all kinds of indebtedness. I drew the correlation to our school district's unjust indebtedness to the state of California, the negative ramifications for the quality of education, and the need to organize to call for an end to these debt payments.

People said I was dreaming and naively believe the state would ever agree to forgiving this debt and reinvesting it in our children. But we

worked hard and we made progress reducing the debt payment by \$4 million over the next five years. That still leaves us paying \$1 million per year and we will need to continue to work on this issue until these payments are eliminated.

The point is we can make progress on tough issues if we work together.

We are in the season of the prophets of peace and as we move toward the celebration and commemoration of the birthday of the modern day prophet Martin Luther King, Jr., let's reflect and start to take action on how we can begin the Peace Millennium Campaign. I'm ready.

Want to receive West County School Watch and other action alerts on local school issues delivered to your email address? Send the message "Subscribe" to paklen@aol.com. Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD school board; the opinions and views expressed in West County School Watch are his own and do not reflect official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD unless otherwise noted. Back issues of West County School Watch and other sundry items can be found on the West County School Watch web site: <http://www.igc.org/westcounty/>

Tying up some loose ends as the year comes to a close

Happy New Year! But, how in the devil did we get here so quickly? It seems like just last week the Y2K computer crisis was on everybody's lips, and hotels and restaurants were frantically reducing those sinful prices they had posted earlier in the year.

The good news is all of us are now official residents of the 21st Century and the Third Millennium. Blessedly, there will be no more talk about when it actually occurred.

Thanks for the e-mail. I enjoy hearing from you. There were two letters that deserve attention. Regarding the column about holiday gift recommendations, eagle-eyed Erika discovered the phone number for the Olive Press was shy one digit. The correct number for this charming Glen Ellen store is 1 800 9-OLIVE-9.

I also heard from Helen Bierce about the column on Aloha Airlines and the Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hawaii. Twice a year visitors to Maui, Helen and her husband flew Aloha out of Oakland for the first time. They, too, liked the size of the plane and the convenience of departing from the Oakland airport.

"We thought we had died and gone to heaven," she gushed. I understand her giddy feeling, but "dying and going to heaven" as a compliment is best reserved for land-based adventures. Her e-mail did remind me that I failed to mention Aloha has two flights daily out of Oakland: one to Honolulu and the other direct to Kahului, Maui.

Let's talk golf. When I was hosting the morning show on KNBR with Frank Dill, late Jan-



MIKE CLEARY

The Food and Travel Enthusiast

ary was a much anticipated time. For years, every Super Bowl Sunday the broadcast crew and spouses would check into the Inn at Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula. It would be our home while we broadcast from the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

For the following week, Frank and I would set up shop in the lobby of the Lodge at Pebble Beach. Each morning, famous Pro-Am participants who wandered into the lobby looking for their first cup of coffee would make their way over to our table. Over the years, Jack Lemmon, Clint Eastwood, Tommy Smothers, John Madden and Jack Nicklaus, among others, would spend a few minutes with us. They were at ease because they had learned from repeated visits that the clean-shaven one (Frank) only wanted to talk golf, and the bearded one (Mike) was only interested in food and wine.

By nine in the morning, the workday (if you could call it that) had come to an end. Frank and I went our separate ways. Because he played in the tournament, Frank would head out for a practice round, only to be back in the hotel to change for one of the many social events scheduled for the players in the evening. Then, of course, he'd be staring at a 4 a.m. wake-up the following morning. In many respects, it was a tax-

ing week. However, because the AT&T tournament committee wisely never extended me an invitation to play, Mary Ann and I had a different lifestyle. While Frank became the "player," Mary Ann and I proudly took on the role of the "spectators."

We would, when not spectating, jog Seventeen Mile Drive, visit the Aquarium or window shop in Carmel. Lunches were always long, relaxed affairs. Our favorite spot was a terrace table at Club XIX in the Lodge, overlooking the 18th green at Pebble Beach.

Frank no longer plays, but Mary Ann and I still cherish our roles as spectators. This year's "AT&T" is one to look forward to. Tiger Woods will defend his title. Jack Lemmon returns after a year's break. Ray Romano, Kevin Costner, James Woods, Glenn Frey and

Tommy Smothers are among the celebrities already signed up.

Now here's a tip from a veteran gallery member Monday through Wednesday are terrific days to be there. The crowds are lighter, the players more relaxed and restaurants like Club XIX are easier to get into. In fact, this year Monday is "Spectator Appreciation Day" and tickets are only \$10. For complete ticket information, call 1-800-541-9091. Their Web site is www.atpb-golf.com, and in the travel info section, you'll find some Monterey recommendations from me.

Cheers.

Mike Cleary and Mary Ann Cleary co-host "The Food and Wine Enthusiasts" radio program at 10 a.m. Sundays on KABL, 960-AM. Mike's column appears twice a month. Readers can e-mail Mike at mcleary@960kabl.com.

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EC clubhouse improvements in the works

EL CERRITO — The City Council last week authorized a contract for \$113,365 to make improvements at three city-owned clubhouses. Disabled access renovations will be done on the Harding, Huber and Poinsett park clubhouses and restrooms by the firm of Younger-Wunar Inc. The improvements will make the clubhouses compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Four bids were received by firms wanting to do the renovations and Younger-Wunar was the low bidder.

Construction costs will be paid from the Measure A parcel tax approved by El Cerrito voters in March 2000.

Construction is expected to begin Jan. 15, 2001 and is expected to be

substantially completed by the end of March 2001.

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TUESDAY
January 9
2001
7:00pm to
9:00pm

Opinion

VIEWPOINT

Bred and abandoned: Rescue leagues formed for purebred animals

By Betsy Swart

Most of my friends are animal activists, and most of them have purebred companion animals. That may sound like a contradiction, but it's not. I, for example, had always wanted a purebred Himalayan cat. But she refused to patronize breeders of these exotic felines. One day, her veterinarian called and told her that a Himalayan cat had been abandoned at the clinic. Soon, she had the cat of her dreams, and the Himalayan cat had a home for life.

Another friend has always wanted an Akita. But, like other animal advocates, she would never have gone to a breeder to purchase one. When she went to her local shelter though, she was astonished at what she found: an Akita puppy who had been "dumped" because she was not "show" quality. In fact, the shelter had many purebred animals. There were Siamese and Burmese cats, golden retrievers, cocker spaniels, poodles, German shepherds, and many other animals she would not have expected to find except at a commercial pet store or a breeder's backyard.

As amazing as it may seem, there are thousands of animals in pounds and shelters right now who were bred for the commercial market and then dumped or abandoned. Purebred animals are now making up a hefty part of the homeless animal population in the United States.

Who is the culprit?

Commercial and unethical backyard breeders are responsible for the abysmal situation of unwanted purebred animals around the United States. Puppy mills breed thousands of "purebred" dogs each year. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there are at least 2,976 licensed breeders in business right now. The American Kennel Club (AKC) registers the dogs and gives them "papers" which help to sell them in pet shops. The AKC registered approximately 1,332,557 dogs in 1996. But few consumers know that the papers the AKC provides only mean that the animal is purebred. The AKC does not inspect kennels, nor does it vouch for the health of the animals. Pet stores often pay as little as \$150 to \$200 for a whole litter of puppies. Retail prices can reach as high as \$400 to \$800 per puppy.

It is astonishing news to most animal advocates that purebred dogs and cats have become "commodification orphans" in shelters and pounds around the country. Thousands of purebred animals are abandoned each year at veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, and grooming clinics. And newspaper classifieds advertise thousands more as "free to a good home." One animal — are purebreds. Clearly, the problem is skyrocketing. To help get things under control,

breed-specific rescue groups have been organized around the country to provide assistance to humane organizations and to reduce the burden of finding suitable homes for displaced companion animals.

One of the most basic services breed groups provide is education. Most dogs are abandoned or given up because people did not investigate breed characteristics and temperament prior to acquiring the animal.

Rescue groups provide prospective adopters with behavioral information — both good and bad — to assist in determining whether a particular breed will meet the adopter's expectations. They also consult with individuals subsequent to adoption to resolve any problems that might arise. Individuals and groups that rescue particular breeds are also often in a better position than a humane society to build adoption waiting lists and to buy time for animals through networks of fostering and kenneling facilities.

Project Breed

These breed-specific rescue groups often don't get the visibility they need to truly avail the public and the humane community of their services. Consequently, the Network for Animals and Females has formed a coalition to increase awareness of existing rescue groups and assist in the formation of additional groups nationwide.

Project BREED (Breed Rescue Efforts and Education) provides a focal point to increase networking among rescue activities and with animal care professionals. The group's goals are: to strengthen networking for, and to increase public awareness of, sources of rescue and rehabilitation of sick, injured, or orphaned purebreds and crosses; to provide financial assistance for veterinary expenses in hardship cases; and to promote other organized humane efforts for these animals.

Project BREED has published a directory of purebred rescue groups. The book is an invaluable aid for all animal advocates and animal care professionals. Volume I, for example, contains 1,555 sources for rescue assistance of 72 breeds of dogs. Volume II — the Red Book Edition — provides nearly 1,400 contacts for rescue of 32 other breed dogs and three other species to supplement rescue listing provided in the first edition.

These new listings include 38 national-level-rescues, along with 32 breed-specific and three species-specific descriptions of unique personality and physical characteristics. As a first, the network has included eleven Project BREED hotline contacts and many regional all-breed rescue coalitions around the country who are available to provide as-yet-unpublished rescue referrals to directory users.

HOW TO REACH US

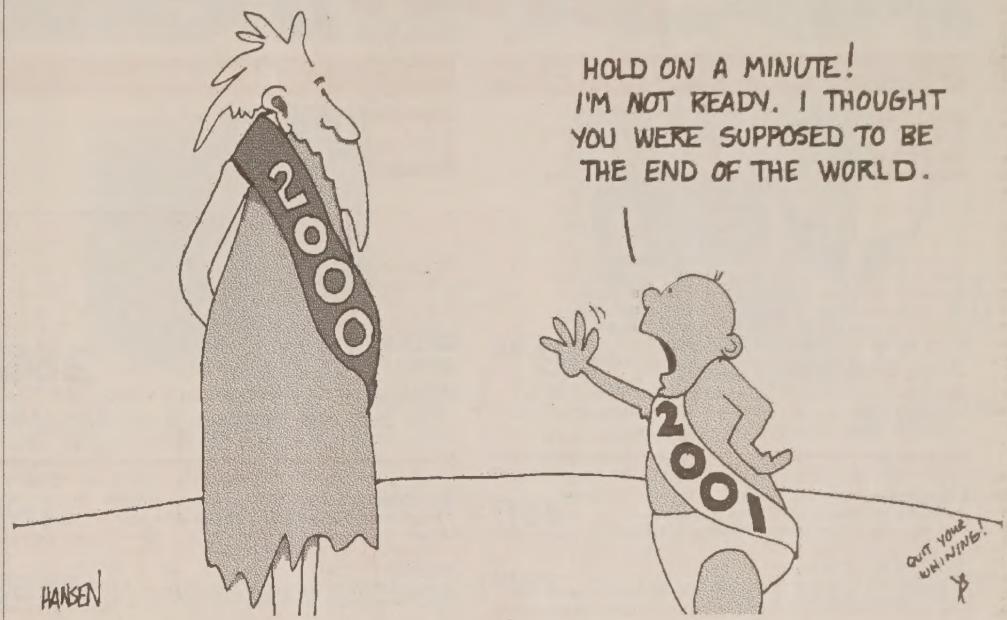
Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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THE NEW YEAR IS HERE



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is El Cerrito waiting for?

It may be somewhat belatedly, but I would like to add my voice to those who feel that we need to develop the lumber yard area into upscale or market rate apartments. It is not, as Peter Loubal writes, a contradiction in terms. Many people have moved, and are moving, into areas that are (a) less than prime and (b) closer to transportation.

If El Cerrito has indeed met its quota of affordable housing, it is time to upgrade our community — unless of course we prefer for it to remain second-rate. Upgrading is a step-by-step process which tends to build upon itself. If consumers come, business will follow or vice versa but generally businesses will go where there is a reasonable chance of making profit. We will not get businesses that bring in tax revenue if the residents cannot or will not patronize them. Look at what is happening in Oakland and what has already happened in Emeryville. What are we waiting for?

Agnes H. Allison
El Cerrito

Inspirational column about an inspirational man

What a wonderful, inspirational column Martin Snapp wrote on Pope John XXIII in last Friday's paper.

The column was beautifully written and brought back fond memories of that remarkable and compassionate human being.

Congratulations to you on having such a talented writer on your staff.

No matter what the subject, he is always entertaining.

I read all the columnists in the local dailies and, in my opinion, Martin is superior to any of them.

Lee Sussman
El Cerrito

City should not be involved in tree dispute

My wife and I recently moved to El Cerrito and are enjoying reading your weekly news paper. However, we were concerned about an article and appeared in the Dec. 15 issue of your paper dealing with a Tree Commission in El Cerrito and a dispute brought before this agency.

As former residents of Texas, we don't understand what authority this commission has over private property and why El Cerrito should be involved in settling disputes between neighbors. We understand that this city is hard pressed to staff its most relevant needs. Have the Chows bought their neighbor's property or what?

In Texas you have to buy "the air rights" and fully compensate the owner of property

before you can tell the owner of the trees to cut them down or remove them. In Texas and California no one has a property right to a view. It seems that the Kiresens have tried to accommodate their neighbors as best they could.

We love large trees and are hoping to buy real estate in this community, but would hesitate to do so if someone else can dictate what we can or cannot do with our trees. Why is the city micromanaging and intruding on the private lives of its citizens?

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Leon
El Cerrito

Rewrite El Cerrito's tree ordinance

Your recent article about a rancorous dispute between neighbors concerning trees and views raised an issue we believe the city would do well to address if it wishes to avoid such bitterness: Rewrite the ordinance to reflect a more realistic approach to preserving both views and the life and health of trees.

While the current ordinance does provide protection against trimming that could lead to the destruction of trees through falling or disease, a reader has to look hard to find it.

Equally difficult to ferret out, but present nonetheless, are provisions protecting the privacy and aesthetic value trees provide. However, as it now stands, the ordinance's main focus is on preserving the exact view that existed at the time a property was purchased.

We have yet to speak with any professional arborist who believes this is realistic or even possible in a city that still wishes to be a home to living, growing trees. As a result, "view seekers" often approach the problem with unrealistic expectations.

A rewriting of the ordinance to more clearly reflect International Society of Arboriculture standards (which disallow topping, in particular) would raise the awareness of "view seekers" to the cumulative benefits of trees and selective pruning methods that both enhance views and protect trees. It would avert disputes by letting new property owners know, at the outset, what they can realistically expect.

By focusing mainly on the rigid preservation of "original" views, the current ordinance actually encourages an aggressive sense of entitlement that often cannot be satisfied, leading inevitably to bitterness in resolving disputes. We urge the city to rewrite the ordinance; it simply doesn't work.

Pam Gilbert-Snyder
El Cerrito

'Flat schools' need help

Since I worked for this school district for 34 years, retiring in 1980, and for 18 years through my own nonprofit organization, I have

dealt with six elementary schools in the poorer parts of Richmond and San Pablo. I know better than most the condition of these schools.

I worked for one whole month doing voluntary carpenter work at Verde Elementary. During that time, I learned a great deal about Verde. I know these schools didn't deteriorate by accident.

For 50 years we have had a school district in the hills and another school district in the so-called "flat schools." This has not changed in 50 years.

I have been to Verde four times to do volunteer work when only a few people showed up, knowing that two to 300 showed up to work for some of our other schools. Some schools have raised \$30,000 to \$40,000 for their schools.

I am very glad Measure M passed, so we can now start to repair and rebuild schools we have neglected for so long. We must never forget that most of our "flat schools" and their entire staffs need a lot more help than they are now getting.

Recently, while visiting four elementary schools on the same day, when all principals were absent due to meetings, I met some very frustrated secretaries trying their best to deal with fighting students and belligerent children sent out of class.

In many of these schools, the worst place to send and deal with problem children is in the principal's office. No principal or staff person can get anything done while surrounded in a small office by problem children. This can and does cause a tremendous physical and mental strain on all who witness and become a part of this daily frustration.

Staying in after schools each day, coming in each weekend, and not sleeping well at night only adds to their stress. Believe me when I say they need more help. I've been there and seen it for more than 50 years.

Fred Fogg
El Cerrito

Couple of lame ducks

We now have a lame duck president leaving the White House and a lame duck president entering the White House. I feel a recession coming on.

I am not a Democrat. I am an independent voter.

Philip Musto
El Cerrito

You can e-mail letters

to the editor to

journal@cctimes.com

THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

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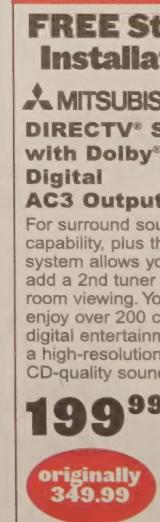
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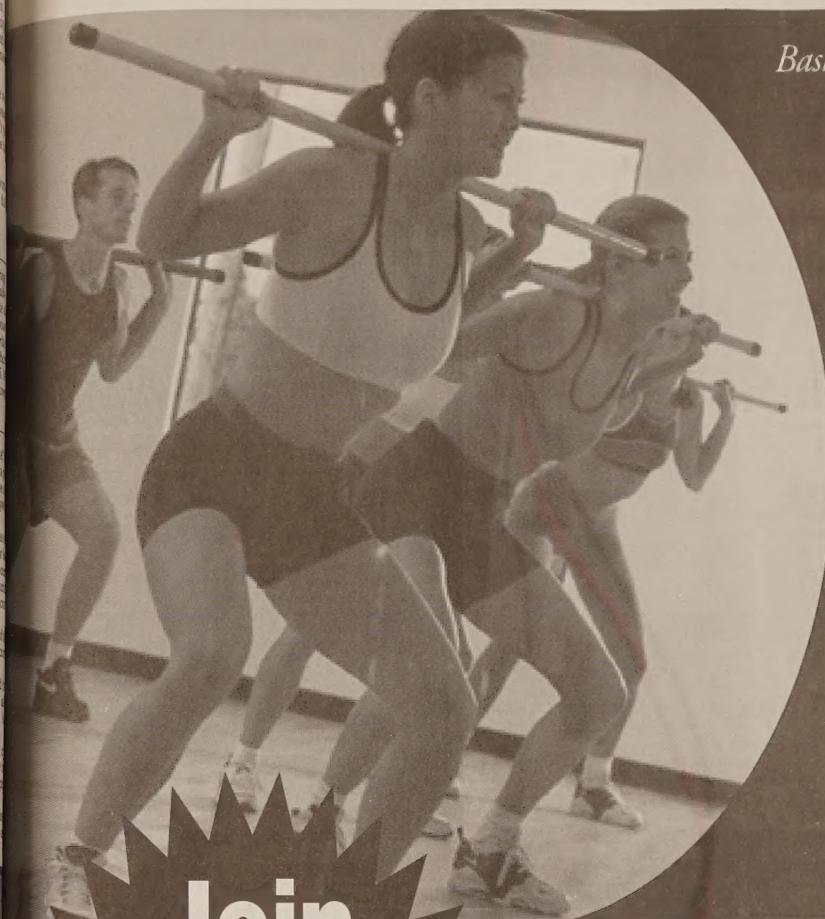
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Echo Heron, RN
Author of
INTENSIVE CARE:
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panelists in health care fields and will provide for active contributions from all participants. The invited participants will include women physicians, nurses, dentists, researchers, clinical faculty, administrators, medical students, and a limited number of prospective pre-medical students. For additional information contact the Women's Leadership Institute at Mills College.

Fri., Feb. 2

EVENING PERFORMANCE

7:30 to 9 pm, Student Union, \$10 admission

Live Performance by Street Sounds

This Oakland-based a cappella quintet resonates with songs of protest and the rhythms of Mother Africa. Artistic Director Louise Robinson is a founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock. Opening for Street Sounds will Oakland-based Master storyteller Diane Ferlatte with *Stories to Live By*.



Women of Courage Breakfast Series

Wednesday Mornings, 8 - 9:15 am,
Faculty Dining Room, Rothwell Center

Hear extraordinary women talk about their everyday life experiences that have created a context for their leadership in social justice and social change. Reservations must be made no later than the Friday before the breakfast. Breakfast reservations are \$15 in advance. The full spring series may be purchased for \$65. Complimentary tickets are available for Mills' students with an advance reservation.

Jan. 24 Paola Gianturco

In Her Hands: Craftswomen Changing the World

Among many accomplishments, Paola Gianturco is the co-author of a beautiful, inspirational book with the above title. Her photographic work for this book was included in a recent exhibition of international women artists at the UN for the women's conference on Beijing Plus Five.

Feb. 14 Irma D. Herrera

Journalism and Law - My Life Learning to Use Voice and Power for Equal Rights

Irma D. Herrera is the Executive Director of Equal Rights Advocates a civil rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination against women and girls. In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Herrera has worked as a journalist and her articles appeared in many publications.

March 14 Shana Penn

Heroines: the Hidden History of Poland's Solidarity Movement

Co-founder of the Network of East-West Women, focusing on women's human rights in the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. Formerly the Director of Media Relations for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Ms. Penn recently was awarded an Open Society Institute Fellowship to complete a book on women, revolution and democracy in Poland.

April 4 Gudny Gudbjorndottir, Ph.D.

Learning to Lead - and Icelandic Woman's Story

Professor of Education at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik and one of the founders of the Icelandic Women's Alliance, Dr. Gudbjorndottir served in Parliament from 1995 - 1999. As a scholar, her work is on women's studies and education.

April 25 Aileen C. Hernandez

The Fabric of My Life: From the Garment Workers to NOW and Beyond

Chair of the California Women's Agenda (CAWA), Ms. Hernandez previously held key positions in the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, was Assistant Chief of the Division of Fair Employment Practices for the State of California, and was a Commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under the Johnson Administration. Active in both the civil rights and the women's rights movements, she was the second National President of The National Organization of Women (NOW).

Evening Events

7 pm to 8:15 pm, Stern 100 - All evening events are open and free to the public unless indicated with an asterisk*

Monday, Jan 22

Women as Decision-makers in Politics:

An International Perspective on Women's Political Leadership

Gudny Gudbjorndottir, Ph.D., Professor of Education at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik and one of the founders of the Icelandic Women's Alliance, Dr. Gudbjorndottir served in Parliament from 1995 - 1999. Her scholarship is in women's studies and education.

Monday, March 5

Great Royal Women of Ancient Egypt (from Hatshepsut to Nefertary)

A slide lecture by Lisa K. Sabbahy, Ph.D., Instructor in Egyptology and Physical Anthropology for the University of Maryland in Cairo Egypt. Dr. Sabbahy served as field archaeologist and pottery specialist for the Brooklyn Museum Expedition to the Mut Temple, South Karnak, Egypt, and was site supervisor for two seasons at the Akenaten Sun Temple at East Karnak, Egypt. Dr. Sabbahy will offer a lively and informative presentation of the lives and power of the ancient Queens of Egypt.

Women's Leadership Institute

Schedule of Events Spring 2001

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Women's Leadership Institute

panelists in health care fields and will provide for active contributions from all participants. The invited participants will include women physicians, nurses, dentists, researchers, clinical faculty, administrators, medical students, and a limited number of prospective pre-medical students. For additional information contact the Women's Leadership Institute at Mills College.

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Special Workshops on Money Management

Sponsored by the Women's Leadership Institute in collaboration with the National Association for Investment Corporations, Bay Area Chapter (The NAIC is a nonprofit organization committed to the education of women with respect to wise money management, investments, and the financial operation of investment clubs.) Mills Alumna, Harriet Chait, member of the Board of the SF Bay Area Chapter, has offered to give the money management courses on the Mills campus.

Sat., Jan 27 Absolute Beginners Workshop
9 am to 12:00 noon. Location: Lucie Stern 101
(\$30 to the public)

Sat., Jan 27 Understanding Value Line
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Location: Lucie Stern 101
(\$30 to the public)

Mon., Feb. 26
How to Start and Run an Investment Club
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Lucie Stern 100.
(\$30 to the public)

The fee to the public for each of the courses above is \$30. To register for SF Bay Area Chapter, NAIC, 3871 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 94611, or call Ann (Registrar) 510-428-2698. Website: <http://www.investing.org/regions/sanfran.htm>

Visiting Scholars Wednesday Noon Seminars

Brown Bag Lunch Series

12:10 to 1:15 pm - With dessert provided (no charge)
Rothwell Center -- Faculty Lounge

Jan. 31 Tressa Berman, Ph.D. and Sandra Sheffield, MA
Our Work in Art and Film

Dr. Berman is a specialist in indigenous women's art and a professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona. Ms. Sheffield is an award-winning film maker, and researcher on women's leadership in film.

Feb 28 Gudny Gudbjorndottir, Ph.D.
Women's Studies in Iceland - Changing the Discourse

Dr. Gudbjorndottir is Professor of Education and Women's Studies at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, and former member of the Icelandic Parliament.

March 7 Lisa Sabbahy, Ph.D.
Dispelling the Myths about Egyptian Women

An Egyptologist discusses Egyptian women during the classical period and the present, presenting a little known picture of their status and rights regarding marriage, divorce, and property.

March 28 Roobina Karode
Living on the Edge: Indian Artists Challenge Convention and Tradition

Roobina Karode art historian, critic, and curator from India, teaches at the National Gallery of Modern Art and the National Museum of India, two of India's premier museums. She is at Mills on a Fulbright Research Fellowship and is a spring 2001 visiting scholar in the Women's Leadership Institute in cooperation with the Art Department.

April 11 Susan Bailey, Ph.D.
Looking at Gender, Race, and Class in Children's Lives

Dr. Bailey is the Executive Director of the Wellesley Center for Women, which includes the Center for Research on Women and the State. She is Professor of Women's Studies and Education at Wellesley College.

May 2 Marti Kheel, Ph.D.
Women, Nature and Animals: Environmental Ethics through an Eco-Feminist Lens

Dr. Kheel has a graduate degree in religious studies focusing on environmental ethics from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She is a founder of an international educational nonprofit, Feminists for Animals, and is involved in increasing public awareness of complex issues connecting animals and women.



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Early morning blaze guts house and injures two firefighters

Damage is estimated at \$700,000

By Leslie Fulbright

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Two Richmond firefighters received burns early Tuesday morning while trying to control a two-alarm blaze that swept through the home of an El Cerrito couple away on vacation.

The fire, which gutted the house in the 2500 block of Tamalpais Avenue, was reported by a neighbor about 1:10 a.m.

Acting Richmond fire Capt. Ed Valdivia was attacking the flames inside the two-story house when he lost his helmet and tumbled down an interior stairwell, burning his neck and face. Firefighter Eric Munson tried to pull Valdivia to safety when his protective pants came up, exposing his legs to the fire.

The two firefighters were treated and released from Doctors Medical Center San Pablo.

"Fortunately, the occupants were not home and not injured," said El Cerrito fire Capt. Bill Capps.

"The fire was pretty intense," said Richmond Battalion Chief James Fajardo. "If you looked up the hill from the bottom, you could see it blowing into the sky."

The owners, Bruce and Gloria Freifeld, were visiting the Arizona house where they plan to move next year when they return, said John Gardiner, a next-door neighbor and friend of the couple.

Bruce Freifeld plays second violin with the San Francisco Symphony, where he has performed since 1970. The family could not be reached Tuesday.

"It was a pretty spacious home and had a lot of high-tech electronic equipment," said Gardiner. A car parked in the driveway and a Lincoln Navigator sport utility vehicle parked in the garage were both

charred, Capps said.

Gardiner said he awoke to the sound of breaking glass and saw a bright light shining through his window. He thought someone was burglarizing the house until he looked out and saw flames shooting into the night air.

He told his wife to call 911 and ran outside, grabbed a garden hose and tried to control the flames burning next door.

"It was so hot, I couldn't even hold the hose up," Gardiner said. "Then when their two cars caught on fire, it was like an explosion."

More than 15 firefighters responded to the blaze and managed to contain it before it spread to other homes. Capps estimated the damage at \$700,000 and said the cause was under investigation.

Freifeld owns several violins. Gardiner said one of the instruments is worth more than \$1 million.

"Last time he left it with us, but for some reason, this time, he took it," said Gardiner. "Thank God."

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"Now it's just a weather vane," Dufour said, although he has the old components and the windmill could

be made operable again. "It has the pump rod, but there's no pump that's mounted on top of the well. I still have that old pump and it's an ancient one."

10527 San Pablo Ave. El Cerrito/Richmond 94530

Windmill

FROM PAGE A1

and covers the walls of the barn-red tank-house. The tall and narrow wooden building is now used as a garden shed. The wood and iron derrick holding up the windmill wheel attach to the rafter beams of the pump-house.

The galvanized "sails" or blades of the wheel are painted "sunshine yellow" which has faded through the years. The wheel hub and gears are cast iron and the bearings are wood, probably teak. The wheel has been



JOANNA JHANDA
IT'S PUMP out of operation, the windmill now serves as more of a large weather vane, it's owner says.

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Pub

FROM PAGE A1

and bustling. It has the signature "day care" corner filled with toys to occupy toddlers, and if you have to wait for your breakfast, someone will drop off a plate of fresh, homemade coffee cake to ease the hunger pangs.

With mom as owner, sons Quinn and Sean as partners and their father pitching in, as well, it is the ultimate family-owned business.

"We don't have the lines that Fat Apple's has, but I think we will," said Sullivan.

This may be due in part to the fact that the family never did much to advertise its business. Aside from some plaques placed on the bar tables when they opened, news of the breakfast service has spread mainly by word-of-mouth.

Sullivan decided to start a breakfast service in June of 1999. That was eight years into her other business, Lunch-N-Munch, which provides catered lunches to local private schools.

Currently, the business serves nine schools in Oakland, Berkeley and El Cerrito. Each month parents select which lunches their children will have and on which days, so not all use the service daily.

"We make between 300 and 500 lunches a day," she said.

The schools have nothing to do with the service, according to Sulli-

van. It's the parents who make the choices.

At schools like Windrush and Prospect Sierra in El Cerrito, and Black Pine Circle in Berkeley, parent organizations have taken on the effort. A small portion of the money that goes toward lunches pays for school needs, such as copy machines and playground equipment.

The trick to catering lunches is riding the line between healthy eating and preparing something kids will actually like.

While salads often serve as lunches, so do PB&Js.

The Jan. 2 menu choices include teriyaki chicken breast sandwiches, assorted crackers and cheese, and antipasto salad as the main items. They come with juice, fruit and dessert.

Cookies, apple sauce or graham crackers are also included.

Lunch-N-Munch has yet to jump on the organic bandwagon. It would be a little too pricey. Lunches already go for \$4.75, which isn't a big deal a few times a week, but if you're feeding four kids it adds up.

Still, paying a little extra cash for some relief is worth every cent, according to Kensington resident Stefanie Stark, who recently signed up for the program.

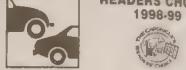
Stark is an architect with two children, and is looking forward to a some relief.

"It sounds like a small thing, but everybody is so rushed nowadays," she said.

It also supports several locally

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Section B

Bobbie Reid (and friends) peer into their crystal balls for some 2001 forecasting [B4]
Weekly Home Sales Keep your eye on the East Bay real estate scene [B6]

Berkeley Realtors install Yoshimura as 2001 president



INCOMING BERKELEY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS president, Steve Yoshimura, left, accepts some sage advice from outgoing president Lois Kadosh. See story on page 2.

Realtors foresee strong 2001 housing market

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

WASHINGTON — With the economy slowing, and continued strength in the housing market, the most likely scenario for 2001 is a soft landing, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Dr. David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said the Federal Reserve has accomplished its goals in slowing the economy through its series of interest rate hikes.

"We do expect a soft landing, however, the yellow caution flag is up and we need to keep a close eye on the indicators," he said. "In fact, the Fed may have to cut interest rates to avoid a hard landing," he added.

Lereah said higher energy prices and increased volatility in the stock market, with major corrections in technology stocks, have raised concerns. Easing indicators, such as durable goods, consumer confidence and car sales, further demonstrate a slowing economy.

"However, there's been a tremendous build up of wealth over the last five years, so even with this year's stock losses, most people remain in very good shape," he said. Housing has been one of the most stable sectors of the economy.

"Existing-home sales will be off only 4 percent from the all-time record in 1999, and we project sales to be fairly stable next year, declining only 1.1 percent," Lereah said.

NAR expects a resale volume of 4.99 million sales this year, with 4.94 million forecast for 2001. New-home sales are expected to slip only 1.7 percent this year to 892,000 units, with 2001 projected at 861,000 units, a decline of 3.4 percent from this year.

Housing starts are forecast to decline 4.8 percent to a total of 1.59 million units this year, then slip 3.8 percent to 1.53 million in 2001. "We think investment real estate is benefiting from portfolio diversification, as people look to more tangible assets in times of uncertainty," Lereah said.

In a report earlier this year, NAR said diversification was a factor in record levels of second home sales in 1999.

"Anecdotally, we hear from market specialists that the second home and recreational property market has continued to boom this year, with about half of all second homes held for investment as rental units," he added.

NAR expects the national median existing-home price for 2000 as a whole to be \$138,900, an increase of 4.4 percent over last year, then rise 5.5 percent in 2001 to \$146,500. The typical new home price is expected to be \$166,300 this year, up 4.3 percent from 1999, then rise 5.6 percent in 2001 to \$175,700.

The association projects 30-year fixed mortgage interest rates to decline slightly from just under 7.8 percent currently to about 7.5 percent by the end of 2001. U.S. economic growth, as measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), should be 5.1 percent for 2000, then slow to 2.8 percent growth rate for 2001. Inflation for this year should be 3.4 percent, slowing to 2.8 percent in 2001.

The association forecasts the unemployment rate to stay around 4 percent through next spring, then increase to 4.3 percent by the end of 2001. Disposable personal income will grow about 2.9 percent this year, then grow another 2.7 percent in 2001.

The sun and stars that float in the open air

The apple-shaped earth and we upon it surely the drift of them is something grand

— Walt Whitman

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Berkeley Realtors install Yoshimura

By Bobbie Reid
CORRESPONDENT

The Berkeley Association of Realtors held its annual inaugural honoring Steve Yoshimura, as the new 2001 president. The gala dinner-dance took place at the Claremont Spa & Resort. Festivities began with a networking-cocktail hour, followed by dinner and an awards ceremony.

The association's 2000 president Lois Kadosh of Bay Ridge Real Estate & Financial welcomed incoming president Steve Yoshimura of Nakamura Real Estate. John Cashman, California Association of Realtors Region 6 Chair administered the oath of office to B.A.R. officers and directors. Cashman is a real estate Broker with Prudential California Realty, in Berkeley.

Yoshimura began his real estate career in 1978. He joined Nakamura Real Estate, in Berkeley, 20 years ago. He is a real estate broker and sales manager for Nakamura.

He obtained a CRB designation in 1995 and was the Berkeley Realtor of the Year in 1998. Additionally, he has been a B.A.R. Director for the past eight years and



STEVE YOSHIMURA

has served as a C.A.R. Director for the last two years.

Each year, B.A.R. presents special awards for outstanding achievement. Recipients this year included Terry Pedersen of Marvin Gardens Real Estate and Sean Moore of Old Republic Title. Pedersen is the recipient of the Realtor of the Year Award. Moore received recognition as the Affiliate of the Year.

The Berkeley Association of Realtors, founded in 1902, is located in Berkeley, on Martin Luther King Jr. Way. For more information on the Berkeley Association of Realtors call 510-848-4288.

Doors pivotal to a well-working home

By Edward R. Lipinski
N.Y. TIMES NEWS SERVICE

If you think about it, a house has only two moving parts, doors and windows. Doors get the most use. Some, like the entry door or the bathroom door, are opened and closed a number of times every day. Windows, on the other hand, may remain closed during the winter months or open in the summer.

Doors may seem simple, just a slab of wood, but in fact the average door is carefully constructed of a number of pieces fabricated to help the door move properly while withstanding a variety of stresses.

Entry doors, for example, are made to withstand the vicissitudes of nature. They must remain dimensionally stable during the temperature extremes of winter and summer.

They must withstand rain, snow, the heat of the sun and they must also be sturdy enough to keep the house safe and secure from break-ins. In addition to being functional, doors must be attractive enough for the surrounding decor of the house.

The standard door for all homes before World War II was the panel door. Panel doors are made up of vertical pieces called stiles and hor-

izontal pieces called rails. In between the rails and stiles are broad flat pieces called panels. All these pieces are of solid wood fitted together with sophisticated joinery, much like a good cabinet.

The rails and stiles are held together firmly with glue. The panels, however, are contained in grooves cut into the edges of the rails and stiles. There is no glue holding them in place. In effect, the panels "float" in place so they can expand and contract with temperature and humidity changes.

A gap between the panels and the internal edges of the grooves allows clearance to accommodate the panels as they expand. All this means that the panel door remains dimensionally stable even though its parts may change.

Modern panel doors ensure an extra measure of stability by using rails and stiles made of laminated wood. The manufacturers cover strips of softwood (which absorbs less moisture than hardwood) with hardwood veneer.

This lamination process creates stiles and rails that are lightweight and less likely to change with humidity.

see DOORS on page B3

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HOMES ON THE MARKET TODAY, like this one in Alamo, often attract multiple offers. When the offers come in, it's up to you to decide what's best for you.

Should you hold out for a higher price?

Determining market value is not an exact science. Generally, the market value of a home is the price a willing and able buyer will pay.

Recently a seller received offers from three different buyers. All of the offers were for more than the asking price. The seller still felt that the offers weren't high enough, so he decided to wait for a better offer.

Another seller was presented with an offer for his asking price. He also decided not to respond and wait for another, better offer.

Were these sellers smart or foolish? Only time will tell. Several months ago, a seller of a home in Oakland turned down several offers before a buyer made an offer she liked.

She was certain her home was worth more than she was asking. She was right.

Not science

Determining market value is not an exact science. Generally, the market value of a home is the price a willing and able buyer will pay.

How much a buyer will pay at any given time depends on a lot of conditions: current interest rates, general economic conditions, the condition of the property, the housing supply, and the buyer's financial situation, to name a few.

The conditions effecting market value are in a continual state of flux, so market value is always changing.

The most common way to determine market value is by a comparative market approach. This involves comparing the property in question with similar properties that have sold recently.

This approach works better in some markets than it does in others. When the market is relatively stable, it's easier to accurately establish market value because prices are changing slowly.

When values are changing rapidly, yesterday's prices are often out of date—by how much is a matter of guesswork.

When the real estate market is strong and home prices are rising, there may be minimal risk in waiting for a higher price.

The alienation effect

That is if there are plenty of buyers and the listing inventory is low. However you may alienate some agents and their buyers if you get a reputation of being a seller who is hard to work with.

Also, markets can change quickly. You usually won't know a market has turned until after the fact.

When home prices are declining, however, it can be very risky to hold out for a higher price.

The longer your home stays on the market, in a down market, the lower your ultimate sale price is likely to be.

Several years ago, a seller in Piedmont, received an offer that

he felt was too low. The buyer refused to pay more because home prices had dropped recently and he felt that prices would drop further.

He was right. Several months later, the seller had to sell for considerably less.

Be objective

It's difficult to be objective about the value of your home. It's disappointing to find out that a buyer doesn't find as much value in your home as you do. But, letting your emotions rule, can be costly.

A good agent can help you to separate your emotional feelings about your home from the realities of the current market place.

But, agents are human and sometimes they too can be wrong in their assessment of market value.

One seller had difficulty selling a studio condominium. When an



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JACK BRENNEMAN

is an Oakland native and graduate of Skyline High School. He attended local colleges after serving with the US Marine Corps in Third Reconnaissance in Viet Nam. After 17 years as a programmer analyst with the Del Monte Corporation in San Francisco, his extensive knowledge of and love for the

East Bay and its diverse housing market led him to become a Realtor. Jack is as enthusiastic about helping his clients successfully buy and sell homes as he was at the beginning of his career over a decade ago.

He has two adult children and is married to Claudia Carlson, an advertising executive. An avid sports enthusiast, Jack is an 11-handicap golfer, longtime Oakland Raider fan and proud PSL holder. Give Jack a call if you are looking for an outstanding agent to assist you in your next real estate transaction. (510) 339-4712.

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FILE PHOTO
ENTRY DOORS are made to withstand the vicissitudes of nature. They must remain dimensionally stable during the temperature extremes of winter and summer.

Doors

FROM PAGE B3

Even with high-speed wood-working machines, it takes time to make a panel door, so they can be expensive.

During the postwar building boom, builders used more precast and assembled units to construct houses. They turned to flush doors as a cheaper substitute for paneled doors.

Another reason for using flush doors was that the simple facade of the door blended in with current decorating trends that emphasized clean lines and plain, unadorned surfaces. In contrast, panel doors seemed downright Victorian.

Originally flush doors were made by gluing 1/8-inch thick plywood sheets to a core of short wood blocks (called staves) glued together. Later, the cores were made of particleboard.

These doors were lighter in weight than panel doors and less expensive because the cores were made from scrap wood.

The simple construction of flush doors eliminated the need for sophisticated joinery. These doors could be mass-produced in large hydraulic presses.

Later, manufacturers developed the hollow-core flush door where the wood core was replaced by a wood or cardboard lattice.

This type of door had less wood so it was lightweight, yet the core lattice made it sturdy and rigid. Flush doors can also be made fire-resistant by filling the core with an inert material like fiberglass.

It might seem that panel doors are largely obsolete, but this is not the case. Many homeowners feel that a panel door is not as austere as a flush door and it blends better with traditional decorating schemes.

Unfortunately, because of the workmanship involved, panel doors are considerably more expensive than flush doors. Recently, manufacturers have introduced a door that offers the look of a panel door at half the price.

These doors are constructed around a hollow frame like ordinary flush doors, but the frame is covered with molded hardboard panels. The panels imitate the contours and lines of a traditional panel door.

Since the panels are made of molded particleboard or fiberglass, they must be painted.

Using a similar construction technique, door manufacturers have introduced a new line of entry doors with steel or fiberglass sheathing molded and painted to replicate the look of wood panel doors.

These doors are sturdier than wooden doors, virtually maintenance-free, and they are less vulnerable to the weather.

They also have an insulated core to retain interior heat during the cold months.

Nevertheless, a steel entry door can still warp temporarily if exposed to the hot summer sun, but they will return to their original shape as the temperature cools.

One way to minimize this is to choose a steel entry door that is painted a light color, like white or beige.

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Are cracks normal or cause for worry?

Q. For the past two years I've noticed small hairline cracks forming in the exterior stucco and in some of the walls and ceilings of the interior rooms in my home.

At first I wasn't concerned, but the cracking seems to be getting worse. Some of the cracks run up the corners of walls and are 1/4-inch wide.

The house is only five years old and on a fairly level lot. How do you tell if the cracks are normal or if they are something to be concerned about?

Is this because the house is built on adobe soil? B. Perry, Dublin

A. Hairline cracking of interior and exterior surfaces of a building is very common, particularly in wood framed construction, and is usually the result of building movement or building settlement.

Buildings have a tendency to move because they are subject to the forces of nature and ground movement, as well as the effects of expansion and contraction of the framing system and finished surfaces.

A house is only as stable as the ground that supports it. Houses built on adobe soil will experience more movement than most homes because

of adobe's great potential for expansion and contraction. Most of the soil here in the Bay Area has some adobe content to it, and when this soil moves, vibrates or settles, so does the house that sits on it.

The catalyst for adobe's ability to expand and contract is moisture. During the winter months when adobe soil gets wet, it expands. During the spring and summer as the rains decrease and the soil starts to dry out, the adobe soil actually contracts and shrinks. This movement of the soil is the biggest contributing factor to hairline cracking in the surfaces of a building.

Cracking in stucco and sheet rock most commonly occurs at the outside corners of window and door openings, the inside corners of walls and ceilings and sometimes at joints in the finished surfaces.

This is usually where building movement first occurs and is most evident. Most of the time, cracking at these locations is minor and considered to be cosmetic. However, large or progressive cracking can be an indication of a structural concern.

With heavy winter rains and dry summers, the soil has an opportunity to move quite a bit. This can make hairline cracks become bigger and more noticeable, and can cause doors and windows to shift and bind in their openings. This may be what you are experiencing with your house.

Evauluating cracks

So how can you tell if the cracking is serious? By seeing if the edges of the cracks still line up. If the edges of the crack line up, the crack is considered to be minor. If the edges of the crack have shifted or moved in relation to each other, the crack is considered to be serious.

This shifting can be an up or down movement of the edges, a shifting that causes one surface to rise above the other, or a tilting of the surfaces so that the crack is wide at the top and tight at the bottom.

This movement at the edges of the crack indicates that some part of the framing system has moved enough to be concerned.

Normally, any crack in a sheet rock or stucco surface whose edges line up with each other and whose gap is less than 1/16-inch is usually a cosmetic concern. If the crack is 1/8-inch or wider, it should be monitored.



JOHN SCHNEIDER

More than 1/4-inch, the crack should be investigated, and repaired when the cause for the cracking has been determined.

John R. Schneider is a licensed general building contractor and a certified residential code specialist. He is president of All About Homes, a residential inspection company, and has been performing code and construction consultations since 1985.

Readers may address their comments to John Schneider, 24326 Mission Blvd., Suite 7, Hayward, CA 94544. Fax number: 510-537-8666. Please include your phone number.

Schneider will answer questions of general interest in the paper. He reserves the right to edit the letter for brevity and clarity. Readers are encouraged to contact a competent contractor or code consultant for specific information regarding questions they may have about their homes.

Americans enjoy the convenience of a home office

AMERICAN FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS ASSN

HIGH POINT, N.C. — Nearly one-third of American households have a home office, according to a study conducted by the American Furniture Manufacturers Association (AFMA). Whether it's located in the den, a spare bedroom or even exists as part of another room, such as the kitchen or master bedroom, the home office has become an important part of our culture today, and its popularity and prevalence are only expected to increase. Fueled largely by trends in technology and telecommuting (nearly half of all U.S. households now have a personal computer), the home office is clearly here to stay.

"Consumers don't have to worry that home office furniture is cold or commercial in its look, or that one size fits all," says Jackie Hirschhaut, AFMA vice president. "The wide variety of home office furniture and ac-

cessories available today can reflect your lifestyle and personality, and even complement other rooms in your home."

Making room for work and play

According to the AFMA survey, of those with home offices, nearly 40 percent use their office primarily for entertainment to surf the Internet, send e-mail or shop; 30 percent use it for work, and 22 percent use it to organize their home and pay bills. In addition, 55 percent of those surveyed spend more than five hours per week in their home office.

Considering the extensive variety of everyday uses for a home office, it's difficult to understand why some consumers deny themselves a home office. "People may not recognize when they're ready for a home office and may not realize how home office space can provide so many benefits — whether it's a room of its

own or a part of another room," Hirschhaut says. "And there are so many furnishings options in all price ranges so anyone can — and should — enjoy office space wherever it works best in their house."

Indeed, nearly half of today's home offices currently share space with another room. The master bedroom pulls double duty most often, followed closely by the family room. "People can still pay bills, send e-mail or work in the family room if that's the most convenient place for them," says Hirschhaut. "They don't have to use the coffee table as a workstation anymore."

Put the "fun" in functionality

According to the AFMA survey, the desk was named the most practical piece of home office furniture. On consumer wish lists for home office furniture, the chair ranked highest. "Considering the popularity of ergonomics as well as the unlimited number of colors and designs available, this is no surprise," Hirschhaut says. "There is so much more variety than there was 10 years ago. Why settle for your father's office chair?"

In addition to the variety of chairs, today's workstations, desks, filing cabinets and lamps come in all shapes and sizes. "Consumers have many more options today. For those just starting a home office or even for those looking to add versatility to their current space, just start with a desk and add on pieces that you need," says Hirschhaut.

All the comforts of home

Home offices offered by manufacturers can meet the needs and specifications of every individual or business. The common thread is that they can be personalized to reflect the needs of families or individuals

who use them, as well as create an atmosphere that is both functional and fashionable.

"One person might prefer a more elegant or traditional workstation, while another may want today's high-tech colors and sleek designs. Fortunately, there is a piece that suits every taste and style," says Hirschhaut.

"Just like any other room in your home, your home office should reflect who you are, what you like and what's comfortable for you," Hirschhaut concluded.

Quiz: are you ready for a home office?

- Do the bills in your household pile up on the counter?
- Does your kitchen table double as a computer desk? Take this quiz to determine if you're a candidate for a home office.
- Does your home computer make its home on your kitchen table?
- Do your dresser drawers double as your filing cabinet?
- Would you or your children benefit from an organized, well-lit workspace?
- Do you have some unused space in your home that could serve a more functional purpose?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may be ready for a home office.

Renter's insurance — do you really need it?

RENT TECH

Imagine that enter your apartment to find all of your belongings have been stolen. Or perhaps your next-door neighbor left their oven on and most of your possessions have been damaged by smoke. In most cases, you'll need to replace the items yourself.

According to Rent Tech, renters insurance is just as important as other types of insurance.

"Many people don't have renters insurance because they believe they only need homeowners insurance," says Allstate Agent

Michael Glazer. "As most of us would not think of owning a car without auto insurance, renters need protection for their personal belongings and from liability."

So what exactly does renter's insurance cover? In most cases:

- The cost of your personal belongings.
- Repairing or replacing personal property that is damaged, destroyed, or stolen.
- The liability for accidents and

see INSURANCE on page B5

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For a Happy
New Year!**

Montclair Better Homes Realty

A very special thank you to all of my wonderful clients and friends for helping make this another successful year - I truly appreciate all of the business and referrals!! Best wishes to you all for a joyous holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year!

With over 19 years of experience and a degree in Architecture, I am committed to provide you with the best and highest quality service available in today's Real Estate industry. To discuss your purchasing options or for a market analysis of your home, I am just a phone call away. Below is a list of just a few of my listings, 74% have sold over asking.

Address	Listing Price	Sold Price
Snake Road	\$595,000	\$703,000
Chelton Drive	\$549,000	\$696,000
San Sebastian Avenue	\$549,000	\$665,000
Edgewood Avenue	\$389,000	\$535,000
Casterline Road	\$625,000	\$806,000
Castelpark Way	\$749,000	\$855,000
Colton Boulevard	\$449,000	\$620,000
Doran Drive	\$449,000	\$560,000

CREDIT WORTHY

Here comes 2001: time to predict, project, prognosticate, foretell

By Bobbie Reid
CORRESPONDENT

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

The real estate market. It's like the weather. We know it's cyclical. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's bad. We can try to predict or project. We can use statistics and look at the past. But, just like the weather, sometimes we are surprised.

Here in the Bay Area we came back from depressed prices and we're, at a steady pace, recovering. The year 2000 exploded with offers on homes, 40, 50, even 100 thousand dollars over the asking price.

Supply was low and so the bidding wars began. It was like a whirlwind and suddenly areas that were affordable ceased to be. By summer's end the upward climb of the stock market halted and home sales settled into something less frenzied.

As this column prints and the year 2000 ends, I offer to you some comments and forecasts from our 2001 real estate organization presidents.

Alameda Association of Realtors President, Ann Bracci of Gallagher & Lindsey commented.

"2000 has been a year of accelerating real estate prices, partially as the result of a continuing low inventory of homes for sale. In recent months, we have seen the beginning of a slowing of the meteoric rise in prices of homes, especially those in the upper price ranges."

"Homes accurately priced at under \$400,000 are still tending to generate significant activity with multiple offers. Often those offers are over the list price. For 2001, the ongoing shortage of inventory will likely continue the pressure on prices of homes of all categories. However, favorable interest rates continue to make home ownership very attractive."

Associated Real Property Brokers President Emma Becton, of EB Realty prefers not to predict. She does wish for a prosperous year for all and that the issues surrounding affordable housing are addressed with positive results.

Berkeley Association of Realtors President, Steve Yoshimura of Nakamura Realty states that in the past year there have been many changes in how the public approaches the home buying process. "Much of the information about properties for sale and applying for mortgages can be obtained through the Internet," declared Yoshimura.

"Buyers and sellers are more sophisticated and informed about purchasing a home. Many Realtors as well, have been able to increase their incomes through their Web sites. Realtors must keep abreast of the new technology."

"Additionally, they have to keep current on new forms and changes in local and state laws. I see more



BOBBIE REID

changes to come in 2001, but 'change is good,' so they say."

John Holmgren of Holmgren & Associates and the Oakland Association of Realtors president felt that 2000 was an incredible year for real estate in the East Bay. Holmgren went on to state, "there was a 'feeding frenzy' that characterized the first quarter of 2000, that was attributed to the high-flying stock market."

This vigorous market continued (after a brief hiatus in April-May following the sharp NASDAQ correction) throughout the year despite a falling stock market. The continued determination of consumers to purchase homes suggests that the consumers don't believe that the falling stock market is a harbinger of a recession in the Bay Area. They do believe that real estate will continue to appreciate in coming years. The durability of consumer demand, together with the strong likelihood of falling mortgage rates throughout 2001 points to another strong real estate market in the year ahead!"

And this from the Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter President, Denise Smith of Royal Realtors & Loan Services, "the outlook for California and especially the Bay Area will continue to expand throughout the year of 2001. California leads the nation's economy; likewise, the Bay Area leads the state's economy. Property values will increase in spite of a reduction of sales volume. Therefore, it is imperative that first time buyers seize the opportunity while there is still inventiveness available."

And my prediction? Well, call me a Pollyanna, if you will, but I'm looking forward to another great year. Here's wishing good health and prosperity to all of you, as we begin this new millennium. Happy 2001!

WHAT'S UP DOCT?

I need your information for this column. I want to know it all. Information deadline is the Friday before publication date. Fax me at 510-441-7191 or call 510-581-4080.



THIS SAMPLE DESIGNER BATHROOM created for Westrum Development Co. features a whirlpool corner tub, Yorktown cabinets, granite counter tops and ceramic floors.

In designing a new home: It's all about options

■ More and more, builders are letting home buyers customize their purchases

By Alan J. Heavens
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

FOR MOST OF today's new-home buyers, options are anything but optional.

In fact, options are so important to buyers that some builders are opening what they call "design centers" to house an ever-increasing variety of choices.

The latest is the 3,500-square-foot "Expressions by Westrum," which Westrum Development Co. opened adjacent to its corporate headquarters in Fort Washington, Pa.

Developer John Westrum, who is now building in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, said the center was designed to encourage buyers to customize.

"Buying a new home is an opportunity to express personal tastes and desires — a chance to create a home that is unique and personal," Westrum said.

Although Westrum is the latest builder to offer this kind of one-stop shopping, he is far from the first.

Last year, K. Hovnanian Co. of Red Bank, N.J., one of the top 10 Philadelphia-area builders, opened a 17,500-square-foot "Home Design Center" near its corporate headquarters.

It has state-of-the-art design centers in several cities, including Richardson, Texas, outside Dallas; in Las Vegas; and in Paris.

The 19,000-square-foot Las Vegas "New Home Showroom" was designed to serve the neighborhoods Kaufman & Broad is building in about a dozen master-planned developments in the desert surrounding Las Vegas, which is one of the fastest-growing areas of the country.

Toll Bros., which builds houses in 18 states, "experimented with larger design centers in areas where it was

Ara Hovnanian, president and chief executive officer, said the decision to open the design center was based on requests by focus groups, by people who visited the companies' developments, and industry professionals.

He said prospective buyers had been asking for the home-buying process to be made easier for them, and the home-design gallery was the company's response.

Although the company had design centers at each of its developments, they "could not contain the great variety of services and products that enhance today's lifestyles," he said.

While Hovnanian's might have been the first design center on the East Coast, the prize for first had to go to Kaufman & Broad, the Los Angeles-based builder that is heavily invested in the Southwest.

It has state-of-the-art design centers in several cities, including Richardson, Texas, outside Dallas; in Las Vegas; and in Paris.

Placing everything from sound systems to roof shingles in one place

concentrating on building luxury housing, such as in Chester County (Pa.) or on the Main Line," said Kira McCarron, vice president for sales and marketing.

"We do it at a large country club or master-planned community where there are more than 500 houses," she said. Company officials have been studying and analyzing things to see if it makes sense for non-master-planned communities in which Toll offers a variety of housing styles and price ranges.

But a regional design center isn't in the cards for Toll and most other area builders: "We're dealing with busy, working families who don't have the kind of time to drive 90 minutes from the community to the design center," McCarron said.

"We prefer to pitch the idea of one-stop shopping at the site," she said. "The only way a design center would work would be if there were a concentration of communities in a small area, or a huge community."

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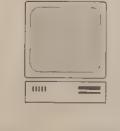
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Information is current as of Dec 27, 2000. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day loans. All rates are based on a 100% loan. Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the interest rate plus fees and other charges that are included in the mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it reflects the annual cost for each loan. ARM-adjustable rate mortgage, LTV-loan to value, MI-mortgage insurance. To calculate your exact mortgage payments, call 1-800-CNS-8525. To calculate your exact mortgage payments, use our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 2000 Consumer News Systems.



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4GE
INVESTMENT

New conforming loan limits announced

By Karen Senzig
This time of year is always exciting in the mortgage industry. After the holidays have been shared with family and friends, the traditional new conforming loan limits are announced by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Conforming loan limits affect the purchase and refinance of one to four family units. Loans that are greater than the conforming limits are considered jumbo loans and carry a higher interest rate, whether it is a 30-, 20-, 15- or 10-year fixed-rate or an adjustable-rate mortgage.

The difference between jumbo and conforming interest rates can range between .375 and .625 percent. In all four categories, the loan limits increased by 8.8 percent, an increase from last year's 5.3 percent increase.

A single family home loan increased from \$252,700 to \$275,000. A duplex went from \$323,400 to \$351,950. Triplex units went from \$390,300 to \$425,400 and fourplex



By
Karen
Senzig

units went from \$485,800 to \$528,700. And, if the analysts are right, we could be looking at the lowest interest rates of the last 14 months. Now that makes a holiday gift well worth celebrating.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached 510-339-8511, fax 510-339-3814, e-mail at knsenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.

Moving? Don't cut corners when packing

Unless you've hired movers to do everything for you, moving across town or to another state is a time-consuming effort. Usually, we remember what to pack but often forget how to pack. Here are some suggestions to help you:

■ Save time and pack several weeks before you move. Start with items used infrequently. Pack items from each room in separate boxes and label them accordingly.

■ Fill boxes to capacity. This provides protection for your belongings and makes loading your car, moving van or trailer easier.

■ Valuables and other essential items should be packed separately and kept with you. Heavier items should be packed in smaller boxes.

■ Reinforce the bottom of all boxes with tape. Fill each box to capacity, using paper or fillers to eliminate empty spaces. The top and sides of each box shouldn't bulge or collapse when they are closed.

■ Leave clothes and lightweight linens in drawers. Pack extra linens and pillows in garbage bags. Trash bags are also handy for ca-

Furniture needs special attention. If possible, remove furniture legs and wrap them with blankets or bubble wrap.

sual clothes. Once filled, the bags also make excellent cushioning between furniture and other breakable items.

■ Furniture needs special attention. If possible, remove furniture legs and wrap them with blankets or bubble wrap. Remove any wing nuts or screws and tape them to the underside of the furniture. Prevent scratches on fine wood furnishings by coating with wax.

■ Appliances. Pack in their original containers or moving boxes filled with bubble wrap or newspaper.

■ Dishes, glasses, pots and pans. Wrap dishes in plastic bags and then with newspaper, wrap glasses with bubble wrap and cushion with newspaper, and stack pots and pans with paper between them.

■ Fragile items. Wrap with towels and sheets.

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Martha Shin

Lack of inflation sends rates to 17-month low

McLean, VA - In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.17 percent, with an average cost of 1 point, (1 percent of the loan amount) for the week ending Dec. 22 down from last week's average of 7.42 percent.

A year ago, the hellwether 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.96 percent.

This is the lowest the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage has been since the week ending May 14, 1999, when it averaged 7.10 percent.

The average for the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage is 6.84 percent this week, with an average cost of 1 point, down from last week's average of 7.11 percent.

A year ago, the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.57 percent.

This is the lowest the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage has been since the week ending May 21, 1999, when it averaged 6.83 percent.

The rate for one-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 7.02 percent this week, with an average cost of 0.9 point, down from last week's average of 7.05 percent.

This time last year, the 1-year ARM averaged 6.64 percent.

"The markets see serious signs that inflation is constrained and no longer a threat," said Robert Van Order, chief economist for Freddie Mac. "But now there is growing concern about the economy going into a recession. Typically, a recession puts downward pressure on interest rates."

"The housing sector remains vibrant. For instance, housing starts in November rose 2.2 percent while home sales are on target in 2000 to be at the second or third highest level ever recorded."

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation established by Congress in 1970 to support homeownership and rental housing.

Freddie Mac purchases single-family and multifamily residential mortgages and mortgage-related securities, which it finances primarily by issuing mortgage pass-through securities and debt instruments in the capital markets. Over the years, Freddie Mac has opened doors for one in six homebuyers and more than two million renters in America.



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952 Carlson Bl - \$150,000
3223 Center Av - \$150,000
612 Chanslor Av - \$82,000
2933 De Anza Rd - \$272,000
5598 Deer Run Dr - \$360,000
1734 Esmond Av - \$178,000
1412 Filbert St - \$140,000
5615 Hazel Av - \$403,000
5761 Hazel Av - \$262,000
2525 Maine Av - \$110,000
850 Maison Wy - \$399,000
164 Marina Wy - \$100,000
1334 Mariposa St - \$192,500
600 McLaughlin St - \$296,000
4017 Mozart Dr - \$228,000
4382 Nelson Dr - \$300,000
3747 Northridge Dr - \$230,000
6151 Park Av - \$650,000
218 Pennsylvania Av - \$170,000
4532 Robert Wy - \$320,000
2006 Roosevelt Av - \$178,000
2110 Sand Dollar Dr - \$310,000
4552 Santa Rita Rd - \$310,000
321 South 5th St - \$110,000
115 South Marina Wy - \$165,000

SAN LEANDRO

1201 145th Av - \$188,000
1475 146th Av - \$265,000
1450 166th Av - \$150,000
1225 Amber Ct - \$428,000
15672 Anchorage Dr - \$440,000
13548 Bancroft Av #2 - \$160,000
2374 Belvedere Av - \$247,000
16082 Berkshire Rd - \$312,000

1050 Bodmin Av - \$286,000
18067 Carolyn St - \$253,500
1132 Carpenter #206 - \$130,000
862 Casanova Dr - \$290,000
1109 Dutton Av - \$317,000
726 Dutton Av - \$279,000
15579 Harbor Wy - \$597,000
105 Harlan St - \$280,000
15388 Laverne Dr - \$323,000
15964 Maubert Av - \$165,000
675 Maud Av - \$328,000
1269 Oberlin Av - \$305,000
2133 Placer Dr - \$270,000
1111 San Jose St - \$361,000
819 Superior Av - \$495,000
559 Tudor Rd - \$220,500
2673 Vistastrand Ct - \$550,000
14655 Wake Av - \$270,000
501 Warden Av - \$245,000
2170 West Av 134th - \$310,000
14766 Wiley St - \$335,000
1894 Willow Av - \$285,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$407,500

BELMONT

TOTAL SALES: 14
LOWEST PRICE: \$190,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,025,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$488,321

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$268,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$583,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$353,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$397,100

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$324,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$455,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$389,750

SAN LORENZO

15587 Tracy St - \$237,000
2112 Via Barrett - \$280,000
17029 Via Chiquita - \$284,500
17376 Via Melina - \$293,000
237 Via Pecor - \$296,000

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$221,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$535,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$350,500

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$740,000

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$224,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$531,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$414,500

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$327,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$540,000

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 5

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$224,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$531,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$414,500

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$224,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$531,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$414,500

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$740,000

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$90,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,325,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$376,625

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 5

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$224,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$531,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$414,500

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$224,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$531,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$414,500

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PRICE: \$740,000

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST

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Antioch Townhouse/Condo

2BD/1 1/2BA, closed porch, new cpt, cl. loc., carpet \$925, 2 car, deck, 1000 SAT, 10-13 (925) 754-7467

ROUNDTHE 2BD/1BA New kitchen, \$1100 925-678-7678

2BD/2BA eng unit, Treat OAK, 2 car, deck, 1000 SAT, 10-13 (925) 754-7467

SPACIOUS 2BD/2BA, 2nd Condo, 3641 Clayton Rd, upstairs 1085 ft, built 1982, \$1450 (510) 631-2551 Catherine Valley Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-531-7000 ext. 258

2BD/2BA A/C, Indry, pool, frplc, deck, pool & jacuzzi, attached 2 car, 1000 preserv, \$1295 (510) 415-8400

3BD/2BA 2nd, Cdition, Ygnacio, 1500 ft, 2 car, deck, 1000 SAT, 10-13 (925) 754-7467

3BD/2BA, 2nd, Cdition, Ygnacio, 1500 ft, 2 car, deck, 1000 SAT, 10-13 (925) 754-7467

Danville Townhouse/Condo

2BD/2BA 1 car gar, frplc, tennis/ swim club, 2nd flr, \$1750 (925) 462-7475

Livermore Townhouse/Condo

2BD/2BA 1 car gar, frplc, tennis/ swim club, 2nd flr, \$1750 (925) 462-7475

2BD/2BA New lux., gar, A/C, frplc, refirg, W/D, deck, 1000 preserv, \$1645 925/433-4171

2BD/2BA 2nd flr, New twinse frplc, gar, pool tennis, \$900 925/734-9495

Concord Townhouse/Condo

STUDIO New Downtown Security bldg, garage, spa, W/D, 1000 preserv, \$900 (510) 276-1075

ROUNDTHE 2BD/1BA New kitchen, \$1100 925-678-7678

2BD/2BA eng unit, Treat OAK, 2 car, deck, 1000 preserv, \$1400 (925) 710-1566

SPACIOUS 2BD/2BA, 2nd Condo, 3641 Clayton Rd, upstairs 1085 ft, built 1982, \$1450 (510) 631-2551 Catherine Valley Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-531-7000 ext. 258

2BD/2BA A/C, Indry, pool, frplc, deck, 1000 preserv, \$1295 (510) 415-8400

3BD/2BA 2nd, Cdition, Ygnacio, 1500 ft, 2 car, deck, 1000 SAT, 10-13 (925) 754-7467

Danville Townhouse/Condo

1700SF, 3bd/2ba, A/C, spa/pool/tennis, Meadowcreek \$2400 925/837-0780

EXECUTIVE 1700 sf, 4 yr, nr. Blackhawk Plaza, excal., schi. \$2000 925/835-0780

SHORT TERM OK 2BD/2BA 1 car gar, frplc, 1000 preserv, \$1800 or \$2000/turn, Agt. (925) 820-8999

3BD/2BA 2 car gar, frplc, pool, A/C, Greenbrook, deck, 1000 preserv, \$2100 mo 925/717-2556

3BD/2BA 4 yrs, new, 2 car, attached gar, \$2600 (925) 743-2520 ext. 108

Danville Townhouse/Condo

1BD/1 1/2BA, great, new, frplc, pool, 2 car, 1000 preserv, \$1750 (925) 531-1283

Dublin Townhouse/Condo

2BD/2BA Dublin Hills lux twinn, new lg. drapes & inscpng, attached 2 car, 1000 preserv, \$1800 925-837-1740

2BD/2BA Dublin Hills lux twinn, new lg. drapes & inscpng, attached 2 car, 1000 preserv, \$1800 925-837-1740

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Baby's First Holiday



Jarod Wade De La Montanya Jan. 6, 2000 * 8 lb. 10 oz. <i>Our miracle baby we thank God for. And Love, Mom & Dad</i>	Thomas Anthony DePiero Aug. 10, 2000 * 9 lb. 11 oz. <i>Our favorite Christmas present. Love, The DePiero & Busch families</i>	Scott Charles Jourdain June 1, 2000 * 8 lb. 10 oz. <i>To our beautiful boy - we love your hugs & kisses. Thank you for blessing us. Love, Mommy & Daddy</i>	Kelsey Erin Wilkerson Jan. 13, 2000 <i>Our Christmas will be special because of you. Mom, Dad, 2 Grandmas & 2 Grandpas</i>	Leilani Adrianna Quesada May 3, 2000 * 7 lb. 14 oz. <i>Great-Grandma & Great Grandpa Palumbo</i>	Carly Nicole Quenneville May 25, 2000 * 8 lb. 15 oz. <i>Our Little Miracle</i>
Adam David Coronier Aug. 31, 2000 * 8 lb. 15 oz. <i>Our first grandchild. Lola Jennie & Lolo Tito</i>	Nathan Strohmeyer Sept. 28, 2000 * 8 lb. 6 oz. <i>Merry Christmas and much love, From Grandma Mackey</i>	Olivia Michelle Dantche June 17, 2000 * 7 lb. 13 oz. <i>Merry Christmas, Sweetcheeks. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Nick & Danielle</i>	Lukas "Lucky" Owen March 6, 2000 * 8 lb. 5 oz. <i>We are so "lucky" to have you in our family. Love, Mom, Dad, Sissy & Bro-Bro</i>	Scott David Munson June 8, 2000 * 7 lb. 3 oz. <i>Scott David, our miracle baby. Merry 1st Christmas. We love you Mom & Dad</i>	Cole Arabian Aug. 14, 2000 * 9 lb. 4 oz. <i>Welcome, Baby Cole. From Big Brothers Austin & Bryson</i>
Ryan May 5, 2000 * 7 lb. 0 oz. <i>We love you, Boo! Merry Christmas!</i>	Gaven Michael Cook July 12, 2000 * 8 lb. 7 oz. <i>Our sweet grandbab</i>	Ashley Elizabeth Dunrrn Sept. 11, 2000 * 7 lb. 7 oz. <i>Miracles do happen! Love, Mommy & Daddy</i>	Melika Ofoia Sept. 19, 2000 * 8 lb. 0 oz. <i>Our precious angel. Love, Mom, Dad & Grandparents Ofoia & Summers</i>	Michael Anthony Wingate July 18, 2000 * 8 lb. 3 oz. <i>Our first grandchild. We love you, Pumpkin. Grandma & Papa</i>	Leslie Jo Bates November 3, 2000 * 6 lb. 15 oz. <i>"Our precious baby girl." Troy & Kathleen Bates</i>
Dare Miller July 3, 2000 * 8 lb. 11 oz. <i>I am the gift God has given to Mommy & Daddy, and they're my gift from Him.</i>	Jacob Ryan Bower March 12, 2000 * 7 lb. 8 oz. <i>My first grandchild.</i>	Ashley Rose Anway October 6, 2000 * 9 lb. 6 oz. <i>We love you! Mommy, Daddy & Jenna</i>	Brandon Glen Collier February 27, 2000 * 8 lb. 3 oz.	Michaela Noel Davis September 9, 2000 * 6 lb. 4 oz. <i>Michaela - our precious little angel. We love you Grandma & Grandpa Garcia</i>	Jake & Madison Martella May 29, 2000 & June 1, 2000 10 lb. 11 oz. & 5 lb. 10 oz. <i>Merry First Christmas</i>
Isabella Prosper April 22, 2000 * 8 lb. 4 oz. <i>Baby's First Holiday</i>	Christina Marie Ferrero October 20, 2000 * 8 lb. 14 oz. <i>We're so happy to have you in our lives. Much love, Grandma & Papa</i>	Kaylynn Michelle Parker May 8, 2000 * 8 lb. 11 oz. <i>Merry Christmas. Dad, Mom, Grandpa, Grandma, Aunt ReRe, Aunt Smelly & Uncle Dion</i>	Charles K. Catilus V January 26, 2000 * 9 lb. 2 oz. <i>Gramps and Gramps welcome C.K. Catilus V.</i>	Aaron Michael Pope September 20, 2000 * 6 lb. 9 oz. <i>Welcome to the world, our little angel. Merry Christmas. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, Grandpa, Auntie Sidney, Auntie Chelsea</i>	Brayden Joseph Snyder May 10, 2000 * 9 lb. 4 oz. <i>You are the most precious gift we have ever received. We love you! Mommy & Diddy</i>
Michael Aidan August 6, 2000 * 6 lbs. 9 oz. <i>Merry Christmas to my sweet grandson. From Grandma Joan & Uncle Dom & Don</i>	Lewis S. Valle III Jan. 19, 2000 * 7 lbs. 12 oz. <i>Our little Angel.</i>	Jaelyn Moneé Cooper Oct. 1, 2000 * 7 lbs. 8 oz. <i>We love you! Mom, Dad, Granny OJ & Grand-Da</i>	Riley Pentecostes Magpoc Sept. 5, 2000 * 6 lbs. <i>Our little snow baby, we love you so much! Merry Christmas Love Mom & Dad!</i>	Austin John Dryden July 3, 2000 * 7 lbs. 10 oz. <i>Grandma and Grandpa's little star.</i>	Hannah Rose Kleker Oct. 27, 2000 * 6 lbs. 3 oz. <i>"...You better not pout."</i>
Drake Anthony Shorter Dec. 25, 1999 * 9 lbs. 6 oz. <i>Happy Birthday to Jesus & me. We Love Everyone</i>	Nicole Annika Nelson Aug. 13, 2000 * 7 lbs. 3 oz. <i>You have brought such joy into our lives. We look forward to spending our first Christmas together. Love, Mom & Dad</i>	Cassidy Jordan Fosha July 10, 2000 * 6 lbs. 6 oz. <i>Another voice to laugh at us as we grow old. Thank you, God, for this gift of life we call Cassidy.</i>	Brian Adiputra Zeek April 5, 2000 * 9 lbs. 8 oz. <i>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Brian. We love you so much. Big sister Christina, Mom and Dad</i>	Skylar Anne Jacobs Sept. 1, 2000 * 7 lbs. <i>Our First Baby! We welcome you! Love, Mama & Daddy</i>	Connor Jay Reynolds Aug. 13, 2000 * 8 lb. 14.7 oz. <i>We love you Grandma & Grandpa Reynolds, Great Grandma's Phyllis & Elizabeth G., Grandpa Rudi</i>

Baby's First Holiday



Jacob Riley
July 4, 2000 * 8 lb. 8 oz.

Our little angel... we feel so blessed!
With love, Mommy & Daddy



Dylan Wilcox
July 22, 2000 * 7 lb. 14 oz.

You are the inspiration of our life! We love you.
Mom & Dad



Kayla Renee Parr
Feb. 5, 2000 * 6 lb. 6 oz.

To my sweet baby granddaughter.
Love, Gramma



Ricky Salinas, Jr.
Sept. 19, 2000 * 7 lb. 3 oz.

Our second perfect grandchild. We are very proud.



Madison Grace McCallister
Feb. 11, 2000

Happy 1st Holiday.
All our love, Grandma & Grandpa Byington



Cayla Ann Zorn
Jan. 4, 2000



Austin Kenneth Bigham Turpin
Dec. 5, 2000 * 8 lb. 10 oz.

Merry X-mas to our precious grandson.
Love, Grandma & Grandpa Bigham



Eric Martin II
April 15, 2000 * 6 lb. 10 oz.

Merry Christmas, Sweetheart.
God bless you on the first of many Christmases.
Love, Granny, Momma & Paw Paw



Sophia Monet Larson
Sept. 20, 2000 * 9 lb. 2 oz.

I am the first born to Mommy & Daddy - Jim & Jennifer Larson



Sylas Bartholomew Dart
Nov. 26, 2000 * 5 lb. 7 oz.

Keep within your heart, a place apart, where little dreams may go.
Mommy & Daddy



Jaycee Mae Armosino
Aug. 24, 2000 * 7 lb. 10 oz.

You have completed our family.
We all love you very much.
Daddy, Mommy, Joshua & Jacob



Taylor Grace
Dec. 15, 2000



Miles David Russell
Oct. 3, 2000 * 7 lb. 15 oz.

Merry Christmas to our son & grandchild. May your life be filled with love, happiness & success. From Lumus & Wendy & Lumus & Joyce Russell



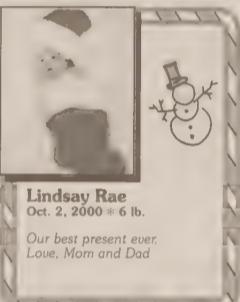
Khari Jelani Da'Rell Byrd
Sept. 26, 2000 * 10 lb. 2 oz.

Merry Christmas to our son & grandchild. May your life be filled with love, happiness & success. From Darnell & Joycelyn & Lumus & Joyce Russell



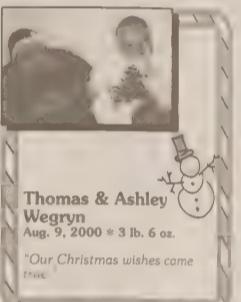
Ethan Conrad Dutra
March 24, 2000 * 8 lb. 13 oz.

Mommy and Daddy love you very much!



Lindsay Rae
Oct. 2, 2000 * 6 lb.

Our best present ever.
Love, Mom and Dad



Thomas & Ashley Wegryn
Aug. 9, 2000 * 3 lb. 6 oz.

"Our Christmas wishes came true."



Teodor Zelenka
Dec. 31, 1999

You do all your best, California



Nessa Anne Kent
Feb. 10, 2000 * 6 lb. 10 oz.

Merry First Christmas!
Love from Grandmother, Patricia Quillin



Lauryn Ariana Sapiandante
Aug. 8, 2000 * 7 lb. 3 oz.

God bless our precious baby on her 1st Christmas!



KaylaMarie Owen Rivera
March 13, 2000 * 6 lb. 2 oz.

Merry Christmas, Little One!
You are "our" most precious gift. Love, Mommy and Daddy



Kaitlyn Alice Lewis
Oct. 18, 2000 * 8 lb. 2 oz.

What to our wondering eyes should appear... Hello, Kait, we're glad you're here.
Love, Mommy, Daddy & Cameron



Anthony Montez
April 20, 2000 * 10 lb. 3 oz.

We love you!
Granna and Poppa



Alexandra Dunn Kirkman
Jan. 5, 2000

Thank you, Santa!



Ryan & Tyler Burke
Nov. 11, 1999

To the ICN staff at Childrens Hospital, Oakland - Thank you for caring for our two miracles. Merry Christmas



Lauren
April 27, 2000 * 6 lb. 2 oz.

Our gift for the new millennium: the blessing of our daughter, a gift of eternal love.



Victoria Bartlett Blante
March 6, 2000 * 6 lb. 15 oz.

Merry Christmas: Angel Baby. Love, Mummy & Daddy



Mara Athena
Aug. 18, 2000 * 7 lb. 5.5 oz.

We love you, Princess!



Zoe St. Cyr
May 30, 2000 * 7 lb.

From Granny & Granna. Merry Christmas



Karalani Goss
March 1, 2000

Happy 1st
Love, Mom & Dad



Haley Serria-Lane Miller
April 30, 2000 * 7 lb. 8 oz.

Our Angel of Joy,
Merry Christmas.
Mommy, Daddy & Big Sisters



Mariah Christiana
March 6, 2000 * 6 lb. 14 oz.

We love you, Mariah.
Mom, Dad, Tim and Jenna



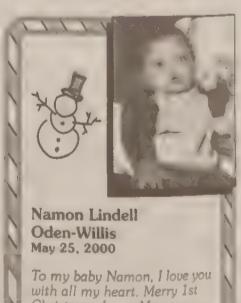
Jalynn Danielle
October 14, 2000 * 9 lb. 9 oz.

Our beautiful little angel.



Ryan Kory Kirk
July 3, 2000 * 6 lb. 11 oz.

Happy First Christmas.
We love you.
Grandpa & Grandma Iwaihara



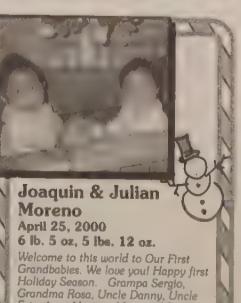
Namon Lindell Oden-Willis
May 25, 2000

To my baby Namon, I love you with all my heart. Merry 1st Christmas. Love, Mommy



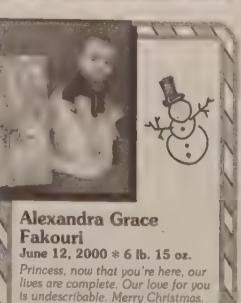
Evan Richard
Dec. 5, 2000

Thank you, Donnie and Nicole for our beautiful grandson.



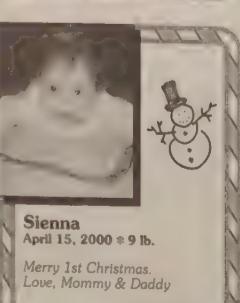
Joaquin & Julian Moreno
April 25, 2000
6 lb. 5 oz.

Welcome to this world to Our First Grandbabies. We love you! Happy first Holiday Season. Grampa Sergio, Grandma Rosa, Uncle Danny, Uncle Eric, Aunt Mariza, Mom and Dad



Alexandra Grace Fakouri
June 12, 2000 * 6 lb. 15 oz.

Princess, now that you're here, our lives are complete. Our love for you is undescribable. Merry Christmas. Love, Mommy & Daddy



Sienna
April 15, 2000 * 9 lb.

Merry 1st Christmas.
Love, Mommy & Daddy



Jacob Dillon Simonds
March 10, 2000 * 8 lb. 10 oz.

Thank you Donnie and Nicole for our beautiful grandson.
Love Grandpa Richard, Grandma Lisa, Uncle Kenny, Uncle Richard and Aunt Cheyenne



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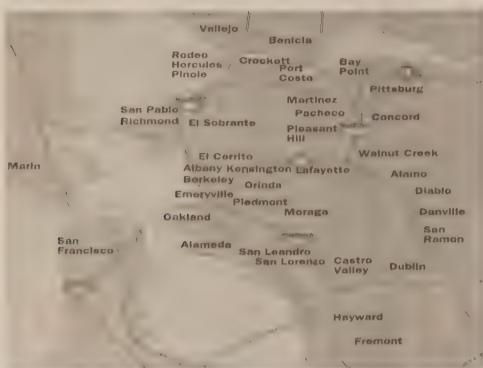
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Friday, December 29, 2000

Section C

Salsig Courses green on this side of the hill [C2]

Arts Oakland gallery spotlights emerging artists [C3]

Goals galore! Panthers lose a wild one

By Mike McGreehan

STAFF WRITER

UNION CITY — The anti-soccer forces in this country have long harped on what they consider the major flaws of their least favorite sport. Often we'll hear these people talk about slowness of play or matches that are too low-scoring to suit their tastes.

Perhaps most of these people will never come around. On Wednesday afternoon, though, both Bishop O'Dowd and St. Mary's high schools made a convincing argument for soccer in group play at the Newark Winter Soccer Classic.

Goals came early and goals came often in O'Dowd's 5-3 win over the Panthers on the Astro-Turf at James Logan High School.

"One of the reasons I love this game is that every one is fresh and every game is an opportunity to play the beautiful game," St. Mary's coach Teale Mateson said.

"Today, the teams were evenly matched. We might have even had an advantage in some areas."

St. Mary's did indeed get off to a fast start when Pat Barry scored off a Zack Huddleston assist before most of the fans had even settled into their seats.

O'Dowd, however, didn't take long to get back in the game. And the fourth-minute equalizer was nothing short of a brilliant piece of teamwork.

Dragons co-captain Brad Scoffern made a short run to the top middle of the box before dishing off to David Seidel on the right. Seidel then crossed the ball back Ned Patterson at the left post for the goal.

As often happens, a match will slow down after a fast start. But the remainder of the

first half in this match was a wild affair, as the teams combined for five more goals before the break. Even the teams' misses were exciting.

Just past eight minutes, St. Mary's Mark Alifert latched onto a cross near the left post and sent the ball wide.

Scoffern had a better chance for the Dragons nine minutes later when he sent a screamer wide right after getting open in the box.

O'Dowd, however, kept up its attacks and scored its next two goals in rapid-fire succession before the half had even reached its midway point.

After the Panthers' Jack Beran did well to kick a Colby Gordon cross out of the box, Scoffern sent the ensuing throw-in to Matt Caselli, who used all of his height to head the ball into the net. O'Dowd struck again just 51 seconds later as Geoff Aguiar assisted Andrew Boone on a



BISHOP O'DOWD'S Andrew Boone (13) fights for ball possession with Nolan Horinouchi of St. Mary's. Playing in Union City Dec. 27 the Dragons defeated the Panthers 5-3.

bang-bang play for a 3-1 lead.

Normally such leads are safe. But there are exceptions, the most famous arguably from the 1982 World Cup semifinal when France took a 3-1 overtime lead against West Germany only to see the latter come back first to tie, then to win on penalty kicks.

Visions of that muddy night in Seville, Spain, 18 years ago surely came to the minds of those observers old enough to remember as St. Mary's scored twice to tie.

Controversy surrounded the first of those two Panthers goals as Stephon McGrew sent a

cross ahead to Bryan Warren, who shot into a wide-open goal. Though the assistant referee raised his flag to signal the play offside, the field referee decided to ignore it and allowed the goal to stand.

Earlier, the field ref had honored an

See PANTHERS, Page C2

Cougars not sharp against 'Stangs

By Scott Strain

STAFF WRITER

For the Albany boys basketball team to be successful, everything has to work.

Physically unimposing, the Cougars need sharp passing, quick movement and good shooting to win games. If any one of these things falter, so does Albany.

It happened Friday night at Albany Middle School. The Cougars (4-6) played host to Marin (3-7) in their first home game of the season and maybe they thought the Mustangs would be basket-ball fodder.

Whatever it was, Albany played just well enough to lose, dropping a 54-47 decision to Marin. The Cougars were outscored 16-6 in the fourth quarter as they lost a 41-38 lead.

Albany players were in the right places, but the passing and movement was not crisp. When those things failed, the shooting failed and after the team ran off eight straight points to take an early 11-3 lead in the first quarter, the Cougars struggled to score.

Albany led 15-8 after one period, as James Amos and David Hernandez combined for 10 points. But the Cougars hit the wall in the second quarter, scoring only nine points to Marin's 15. Ken Mimoto's 3-pointer and Amos' 2-point basket were the only field goals scored by the Cougars in the period. Albany's lead

was cut to 24-22.

The Cougars managed to rev up their offense to score 17 points in the third quarter. Amos scored to give the Cougars a 30-24 lead, but Marin's Nick Tavis scored to cut the lead to 36-35. Marin's 6-foot-4 center Pat Fahy started to make his presence felt at this time, scoring eight points.

Amos hit a 3-pointer for a 41-38 advantage at the end of the third quarter, but that was the last lead the Cougars had.

Both teams went scoreless in the first 95 seconds of the fourth quarter. John Glasgow hit a basket at the 6:25 mark to cut the lead to 41-40 and Mark Twitchell scored at 5:57 to give Marin its first lead at 42-41.

Albany continued to go dead offensively as the Mustangs, led by Fahy's six points, gradually upped the lead to 50-42. Danny Ho hit a bucket, but Albany did not score any further points from the field until Amos hit a 3-pointer with 51.2 seconds left in the game to trim the Marin lead to 52-45. But it was over.

"We were in the right places, but we weren't sharp," coach Doug Kagawa said.

See COUGARS, Page C2

'Jackets overwhelm Titans

ANTIOCH — The Berkeley Yellowjackets (7-3) just flew in from Chicago and boy are their arms fired.

No really. Berkeley's girls basketball team got off to a bumpy start on Wednesday in the first round of the Open Division at Deer Valley. But the Yellowjackets were fortunate in that they were playing Skyline and didn't need much to overwhelm the Titans (7-5), winning 74-24.

Forward Robin Roberson made sure the Yellowjackets (7-3) didn't have to work too hard on Thursday. She led Berkeley with 23 points. Sabrina Keys added 12 and Gelater Fullwood 11. The Titans were led by Melissa Alexander's 11 points.

The Yellowjackets scored the first

nine points of the

game and 16 of the

first 18. Berkeley led

19-4 at the end of

the first quarter and

32-8 at halftime.

The Yellowjackets went 1-3 at last week's Tournament of Champions in Chicago. That tournament had 13 of the top 25 teams in the country according to the Fox Fab 50 poll. This week's tournament isn't quite that tough, but Berkeley will probably face some tough competition. Three-time defending California Interscholastic Federation Division II champion Brea-Olinda-Brea is in the bracket.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASHOF Youth Fund grants

Applications are still available for Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame Youth Fund grants for 2001. Youth organizations and schools may apply for these grants to provide sports equipment. Call 415-352-8827 to receive a grant application. Allow two weeks. Deadline for returning completed applications is Jan. 31, 2001. Grants will be distributed in summer 2001.

Stars to the Rescue

Milbone and the Oakland A's will present Stars to the Rescue from 7:10:30 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre on Jan. 20. Former A's manager Tony LaRussa will celebrate three generations of Oakland A's. Celebrity guests will include Michael Bolton, Richard Marx, Dennis DeYoung, Jimi Jamison, Tom Johnston and members of the Doobie Brothers. Tickets cost \$35, \$50 and \$100 and are available by calling 625-8497. For \$300 premium tickets, which includes a reception after the event, please call 925-296-3144. For additional celebrity confirmations and show information, call 925-977-7900, extension 399. Proceeds

See BRIEFS, Page C2

Courses green on this side of hill

Tiger Woods won three majors, including a 15-stroke victory in the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. As mind-boggling as his season was, golf in the East Bay was equally spectacular in Y2K.

The year began with a startling announcement from Lake Chabot GC in the Oakland hills. The course would be leased out to the KSL corporation, the guys who own PGA West and La Quinta down in Palm Springs.

That woke people up in a hurry. The truth was laid out in a Jan. 11 meeting of the city's Park and Recreation Commission in the Garden Room by Lake Merritt, a room much too small for all the Oakland golfers who showed up to speak their minds on this project.

Renowned golf course architect Arthur Hills had beat out names like Weiskopf and Fazio for the job. It was Hills' drawing of the new Chabot links which stood in splendor on one side of the room.

The plan was to lease the course to KSL for at least 40 years, with KSL spending the millions necessary to upgrade the course to a world class facility. Oakland would contribute \$2.5 million, which would come from the Port of Oakland through the Galbraith project.

But Lake Chabot did not close down for renovation this year. Red tape was thrown at the project from every direction by disgruntled golfers who cannot afford the elevated green fees.

Two weeks later, Alameda golfer Bob Blomberg found himself sitting at a table close to Tiger Woods at Pebble Beach during the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Both were honored at the annual California Golf Writers Banquet.

Blomberg had proved his mettle that day, sinking a 4-iron from a fairway trap on the toughest hole at Monterey Peninsula CC for an eagle, shooting a 66. The writers gave Blomberg the Johnny Swanson Good Guy award, a well-deserved honor for the six-time Alameda Commuters champ.

Two 12-year-old golfers from the Alameda Junior Golf Club had heads turning in the San Francisco City Championship at Harding Park. Ki Shui Liao won medalist honors. Martha Burkard won the champi-



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onship.

The finals match with Eden Anderson, a 22-year-old former Cal golfer who has since entered law school, went right down to the final hole, Burkard with a 1-up advantage.

Burkard out-drove Anderson by 30 yards on that 36th hole. Anderson hit a weak approach which found the front-right bunker. Quickly, before anyone in the gallery could settle in for the shot, Burkard struck an 8-iron perfectly to the back-left pin. The ball nestled in six feet from the hole.

But Anderson was not done. Her 60-foot explosion from the bunker was on line and hit the hole, but lipped out. The downhill shot kept rolling, 15 feet beyond the hole. Anderson made a bold putt for her par, but the ball missed the cup and rolled three feet by. Anderson then turned to pick up Burkard's ball-mark and shook her hand, conceding the match, 2up.

"I was very impressed with her game," Anderson said of Burkard. "I wasn't even playing golf at her age."

Much less at this level. Time to rewrite the record books. Dorothy Delasin won the women's title at age 17 two years ago, and Kim Welch won last year, also at age 17. That had many veterans of the City Championship shaking their heads. But age 12 is very difficult to comprehend.

CNN picked up the story, as did Sports Illustrated, GolfWeek and Golf World magazines.

The final round of the 73rd Alameda Commuters Golf Championship was played on an overcast day that threatened rain, with wind whipping golf balls into places they never should be, along with assorted hats, visors and the occasional scorecard. And numbers flew around the top of the leaderboard in an equally frenzied manner. No one was quite sure who had the lead in the final round. Until the final two holes.

Darryl Donovan of Gilroy drove the par-4 17th green and two-putted for birdie to tie James Hay of Fre-

mont. On the final hole Donovan buried a four-footer for the Commuters title.

The year 2000 was not kind to the People's Open. First, Lake Chabot had to cancel out with a pending renovation schedule, forcing a very big field (over 300 golfers, which requires three golf courses) to play on the two championship courses at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex in Alameda. Then the pros canceled out, due to a schedule conflict with the \$100,000 San Francisco Open across the bay. Then the scoreboard keepers decided not to show up.

And then it rained throughout the weekend.

"Might as well have it all happen in one year and get it over with," said founder Charlie Peoples of his 18th annual fund-raiser for junior golf and youth scholarships. "We had some problems with the golf this year, but the dinner on Saturday was a big success."

Tommy Williams, a senior pro from Kansas City, Mo., won the only professional flight played, the senior professional People's Championship, with a chip-in for a birdie on the first extra hole of a three-way sudden-death playoff with Leonard Hawes of Los Angeles and 1997 champ Clyde Daniels of Sacramento.

Martha Burkard returned to action in the East Bay Junior Championship, but she was up-staged by her older brother. Jon Burkard shot 69-70 to win the age 16-17 flight, Martha took second to Ki-Shui Liao in the girls age 12-14 flight. Ryan Ortiz of Brentwood, age 15, shot a 64 in the first round to run away with the boys overall title. Christina Kim of Santa Clara won the girls overall title.

Scott Hardy of Pleasant Hill shot 67-69-136 to become the first Oakland City champion to successfully defend his title in 49 years, since Ralph Hall in 1951.

Here's hoping 2001 brings at least as much excitement.

Ron Salsig, a professional golfer for 25 years, had the low round in the final round of the People's Championship. He can be reached at ronsalsig@prodigy.net.

about all of this there was a tear. I'm such a sap.

Panthers

FROM PAGE C1

assistant referee's judgment when Gordon was ruled

offside on a close play at the other end. O'Dowd coach Pete Belanger disputed both calls -- especially the inconsistency of the calls -- and later received a warning for dissent on another controversial call.

"My guys came in at halftime saying, 'Are we getting the call here or are we not?'" Belanger said. "(The referee) even admitted to Colby later that he blew the call on the through ball."

There was no disputing St. Mary's next goal, though, as McGrew scored off a through ball to knot the match at 31 minutes.

But the wild first half was far from finished as Gordon booted home a beautiful volley from the right side of the box with less than five minutes to go, putting the Dragons up for keeps at 4-3. As was the case with O'Dowd's earlier goals, this one also resulted from some beauti-

ful teamwork. Patterson fed the ball wide to Gordon. Ryan Bradshaw started the sequence with a throw-in to Seidel, who played the ball back to Aguilar, who then sent it ahead to Patterson.

Goal production slowed in the second half though the action did not. O'Dowd scored its final goal with five minutes left when Patterson sent a pinpoint pass to Scoffern, who slotted the ball home from the right.

Eight goals -- especially in a tournament match with quality teams -- are a rarity. But AstroTurf changes the complexion of the game, especially when both teams don't normally play on the stuff.

"I think a lot of it was due to the fact that this was a really fast field," Belanger said, explaining the inordinate number of goals. "If you're linking up (passing well), as the teams did in this match, then the defense can't run as fast as the ball."

And for one afternoon at least, those who pan soccer for lack of scoring were strangely quiet.

ETC: St. Mary's (2-6 overall) opened tournament play Wednesday

Cougars

FROM PAGE C1

"We were slow and when that happens, our game falls off. Our guys were trying, but we weren't aggressive."

Fahy led all scorers with 23 points and Amos had 16 to lead Albany. The Cougars opened play in the Second Annual Head-Royce Roundball Tournament in Oakland on Thursday against Crystal Springs-Uplands. Albany is the defending champion of the tournament, which ends Saturday.

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Braunstein

FROM PAGE C1

Late in the show the team did arrive, and I talked with players Trimaine Davis and Hervey Malone on the radio.

I then wrote the highlights from my game that night, put on my makeup and went into the studio to start taping Sports Focus. The Pittsburgh players walked in and were wide-eyed and smiling. They had just driven 75 minutes from Vallejo to be on the show and they were thrilled. The taping went well and the Pittsburgh players decided to stick around to watch some of the production. I had several of them help choose the play of the week. They elected a play from the Pinole Valley game even though Trimaine's steal and dunk from the Vallejo highlights was certainly worthy.

Just after midnight the players left the station for the long journey back to Pittsburgh. They were still smiling. They had Sports Focus T-shirts in hand, were proud to have been part of the show, and were even prouder to be a Pittsburgh Pittsburgh.

I sat down after the show and forgot about my hectic week. I was thinking about Mark Willis and his sacrifice to get the Alameda soccer team on the air, and I was thinking about the Pittsburgh basketball players and how our show had given them a holiday memory they will cherish. To be a part of such a wonderful show, to have a loving wife and

two talented children, I think maybe I'm the richest man in town. And yes, while thinking



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Arts

Oakland gallery spotlights emerging artists

Fischer

Critic's choice for 2000

This was not, to put it mildly, a vintage year for the broadcast media. The year started with "Survivor" and wound down with the Florida election fiasco. In between, there was a lot of bad TV (and radio). And even some good, too, though it's considerably harder to find.

It's the time of year for our annual critical selections of the Best and Worst in local and national TV and radio. We'll start locally. Let the lists begin!

Best Local TV Newscast:

KRON-TV's 6 p.m. cast, dethroning our perennial winner, KTVU's 10:00 news, largely because of its strong enterprise reporting on the California energy crisis and other local stories. One hopes KRON's new owners leave their top-notch news department alone. KTVU's first-rate newscast is just behind, and Channel 2's Tom Vacar also filed some strong energy pieces.

Worst Local TV Newscast: The Channel 11/Channel 20 10:00 newscast: Hard to believe that KNTV (Ch. 11) will be an NBC affiliate in about a year. Former KGO-TV anchor Terilyn Joe's dubious return to KNTV means its newscasts can only get worse. And now I hear that another KGO outcast, Pete Giddings, has been spotted down at KNTV.

Best Local TV Anchors: The just-retired Suzanne Shaw, Catherine Heenan, Pam Moore, and Tom Sankovitz (KRON); Ken Bastida (KPIX); Dennis Richmond and Diane Dwyer (KTVU). Channel 4 now has by far the deepest anchor bench in the Bay Area.

Worst Local TV Anchors: Tie between KGO's animatronic-like Dan "White" Noyes and KRON's Wendy Tokuda, who blows more lines than Robert Downey Jr.

Best Local TV Reporters: Vic Lee, Greg Lyon, Noel Cisneros (KRON), Willie Monroe, Carolyn Tyler (KGO); Rita Williams, Randy Shandoff, John Fowler, Faith Fischer, Lloyd LaCuesta, Vacar (KTVU); Tony Russomanno (KPIX). Channel 2's impressive roster of reporters is its primary strength.

Best Feature Reporter/Best Writer: Bob MacKenzie (KTVU).

Worst Reporters: Liane Melendrez, Wayne Freedman (KGO).

Best Weathercaster: Brian Hickey (KRON). It's a mystery why Hickey didn't replace lead forecaster Steve "Hi Folks" Raleigh years ago.

Worst Weathercaster: KPIX's Roberta Gonzales. Hammier than the local deli.

Best Sportscaster: KRON's Bush Gary Radnick.

Most Annoying: Tie between KGO's Gonzales and Bay-TV's Jimmy Steele.

Up-and-Comer to Watch: Anna Dovborow (KRON). Smart and poised.

Highest Salary-to-Talent Ratio: Malu Nubla, KPIX-TV.

Biggest Losses in Local TV: KRON's just-departed Shaw and KPIX's Brian Sussman.

Local Radio Station of the Year: All-news KCBS, which lost its revered morning man, Al Hart, this year, replacing him with another class act, Stan Bunker. The solid, no-nonsense station has just moved into new studios in the KPIX building and will soon go all-digital.

Best Local Radio Reporters: Jim Taylor, Oakland-based Jerry Wilcock, Steve Little (all of KCBS).

Best Local Radio Talk Host: The classy Michael Krasny, host of KPIX's intelligent "Forum."

Worst Local Talk Host: (See next item.)

Disgrace to Broadcasting: KGO afternoon-drive hatemonger Michael Savage (now nationally syndicated), who will say anything and does — to call attention to himself. Every broadcast seems to hit a new low.

Funniest Radio Show: NPR's "Car Talk."

Worst S.F. Bay Area Radio Station: Wild 94.9. Two of this dim-witted and juvenile station's employees were arrested in San Mateo this year for donning jail garb and posing as escaped prisoners as part of a "wacky" morning-show.

And that's not even close to the

Best Pipes: East Bay resident Ed Baxter (KGO).

Best Music Station: KDFC

It's fair to say that if not for a chance meeting at San Jose's Cactus Club in the 1980s, there might not be a Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery today.

It was at the club that Lizabeth Belli met Christopher Oliveria and a romance was launched that, with a lot of Gen-X twists and turns, led to the creation this year of that rare creature, a contemporary art gallery in downtown Oakland.

At the time, Belli, whose family owns the East San Jose-based PW Markets grocery chain, was doing a twenty-something float, and Oliveria, from Sacramento, had been drawn to San Jose by the skateboarding scene.

By the late 1990s they were married; she had grown disillusioned with a career in clothing design, and he had earned fine-arts degrees from both the San Francisco Art Institute and the California College of Arts and Crafts. When the need to care for an ailing grandmother brought them to Oakland to live, Lizabeth Oliveria says the couple saw an opportunity.

"When we moved here, we realized it made no sense that there was so little space for contemporary artists," she said on a recent weekday, sitting in the back of her gallery at a desk salvaged from a PW warehouse and furnished by her husband.

"We could have done this in the Outer Mission area in San Francisco, but we would have been one of a couple hundred little galleries," she said. "I don't consider us an alternative space, but we're not a high-end gallery. Some of our artists have had shows at bigger galleries in San Francisco. But we're about emerging artists."

Essentially, the couple is betting that, with dot-commers driving artists from San Francisco into the Bay and Mayor Jerry Brown touting the last (relatively) cheap real estate in the Bay Area, Oakland might start to look a lot more sensible for galleries and an emerging art scene.

And, anyhow, they inherited a house there.

More seriously, Oliveria observed that Oakland already has a significant core population of artists. "There are a lot of established artists," she said, ticking off Hung Liu, Squeak Carnwath and Raymond Saunders, all of whom teach art and live in Oakland and are represented by major San Francisco galleries. "And there's a ton of younger artists around."

Judging from the résumés of its stable of artists, the gallery is plugged into the scene of artists who attended local arts colleges. Franklin Williams, who has taught at both places since the 1960s, is de facto elder statesman of the crew. Samples of all their work can be seen at www.lizabetholiveria.com.

Of course, the gallery is not the only contemporary art gallery in downtown Oakland. Just across a courtyard on Clay Street, in a neighborhood the city calls Old Oakland, is the Chi Gallery, which also focuses on the contemporary art and crafts of East Bay artists. Within the surrounding 20 blocks or so is a handful more, including Pacific Bridge, a beautiful gallery that focuses on Southeast Asian contemporary work.



CHRISTOPHER AND LIZABETH OLIVERIA, top, think the time may be right for an art gallery in Oakland that features contemporary artists. The Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery features Christopher's work through Tuesday; his piece called "Lonely" is in the background. More of Christopher's work below.

LIZABETH OLIVERIA GALLERY

■ WHERE: 942 Clay St., Oakland

■ HOURS: 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays

■ HOW MUCH: Free

■ CURRENTLY SHOWING: Work by Christopher Oliveria, through Tuesday

■ INFORMATION: 510-625-1350, www.lizabetholiveria.com

But generally speaking, Lizabeth Oliveria is casting a broader net, trying to forge relationships with the art scenes in Los Angeles, New York and London. Next summer, for example,

See GALLERY, Page C5



Coens go Homer in 'Brother'

'Odyssey' references are somewhat buried, but star George Clooney's unexpected talent for slapstick is upfront

By Mary F. Pols

SENSE WRITER

The Coen brothers' new movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" is the most sublimely insane movie to come along this year, a strange hybrid of musical comedy, silent movies and "The Wizard of Oz."

It's so bizarre, it's likely to turn some viewers off completely, but those who enjoy its curious charms are likely to turn it into a cult classic, much like the Coen brothers' recent "The Big Lebowski," a stoner version of Raymond Chandler that was savaged by many critics but lives large in the hearts and minds of a large portion of the male population ages 25 to 35.

The Coen brothers, Ethan and

REVIEW

■ WHAT: "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

■ STARRING: George Clooney, John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson, Holly Hunter, Charles Durning

■ RATING: PG-13 (some violence and language)

■ RUNNING TIME: 1 hour, 43 minutes

■ WHERE: Opens today at select theaters

■ GRADE: A-

Joel, who also gave us such wonderful oddities as "Fargo" and "Raising Arizona," claim "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" is based on Homer's "Odyssey," although beyond the basics, the Homeric references are fairly scant. Either that or they are too buried to be immediately evident. We'll leave it to some erstwhile graduate student to dig them out and write a fine dissertation on the topic.

Our version starts out with three members of a chain gang, clad in faded prison stripes, hotfooting it through a golden field. Pete (Coen brothers regular John Turturro), Delmar (Tim Blake Nelson) and Clooney's character, Everett Ulysses McGill (Ulysses being the Latin translation of Odysseus), are making their escape in pursuit of a buried treasure. Everett claims it is in some other part of Mississippi. It's the Depression, and a fair number of the state's hungry residents seem to have run afoul of the law and ended up on chain gangs. The rest of them don't look much happier.

Right off the bat, there's a great visual gag in which the allegedly silver-tongued Everett clammers up onto a train car and starts making a plea to a row of bums to help the trio cut the chains still binding them together. Delmar hops on behind him, but Pete can't make it, and Everett gets yanked backwards and off the train.

We're not accustomed to seeing pretty boy Clooney fall flat on his face or do slapstick. One of this sur-

prising movie's biggest surprises is how good Clooney is at being funny. There's no sign at all of the telltale Clooney hangdog look; instead, he's got that strong jaw up and his gaze directed front and center. He's never had an opportunity with a script like this, or to be part of such a cheery, skilled ensemble as the one he has here with Turturro and Nelson, and it's clear he's relishing his time in the zany land of the Coens. When the sweetly innocent Delmar — he may remind you of the Scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz" — offers him a gopher, roasted on a stick, Everett declines, telling him, "A third of a gopher would only arouse my appetite without bedding her down."

While Everett is physically terribly debonair, he's also a bit of a dork. Think Clark Gable crossed with Cliff Clavin. Even with a classically nasty Southern sheriff hard on the escapees' heels, it's absolutely essential to Everett that he comb some pomade through his hair before going to bed. If woken up suddenly — and

See BROTHER, Page A5

EVENTS

Alameda Point Antiques Faire — Jan. 7, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. First Sunday of every month. Over 600 booths offer a wide array of antiques and collectibles. \$3-10. Alameda Point, Alameda. 510-869-5428. www.antiquesbybay.com

Aurora Theatre — "The Weir" by Conor McPherson, closing Dec. 30. A modern-day ghost story set in a pub in rural Ireland. \$30 to \$35. Tuesday through Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Duran Ave., Berkeley. 510-483-4822 or www.auroratheatre.org

Berkeley Repertory Theatre — Extended — "Dinner With Friends" by Donald Margulies, extended through Jan. 7. The story interweaves the lives of two couples: good friends, just at the moment when one marriage is breaking up and the shockwaves threaten the surviving relationships. \$15.99 to \$51. Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 30, Jan. 4 and Jan. 6, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949 or 888-48RTIX

The Madison — "Murder Dressed in Satin" by Victor Lawhorn, ongoing. A mystery-comedy dinner show about a murder at the home of Satin Moray, a club owner and self-proclaimed socialite with a scarlet past. Dinner is included in the price of the theater ticket. \$47.50. Lake Merritt Hotel, 1800 Madison St., Oakland. 510-239-2252 or www.acteva.com/go/havefun

The Masquerade Playhouse — "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Gian-Carlo Menotti, closing Dec. 30. A holiday opera. \$10 general, \$8 children under age 12. Thursday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 105 Park Place, Point Richmond. 510-232-4031

Fine Arts Cinema — Duke Ellington and Josephine Baker, Jan. 3-9. Featuring "Black and Tan Fantasy," "Ellington at Antibes," and "Zou Zou." Call for prices and show times. Closed through Jan. 2. 4251 Shattuck, Berkeley. 510-654-6346. 510-848-1143. www.finearts.com

Indiefest 3 — The San Francisco Independent Film Festival, Jan. 11-21. Highlights include "Standing on Fishes," "Radio Free Steve," "This Guy is Falling," "The Auteur Theory," "Down Time" and "900 Women." Call for a complete schedule of listings. \$7.50 general, \$5.50 matinees. Jan. 19-21. Fine Arts Cinema, 2451 Shattuck. Berkeley. 415-820-3907. 415-421-8497. www.indiefest.com

Pacific Film Archives — Closed through Jan. 3. International Children's Film Festival, Sundays, Jan. 7-25. "Family Tree," 1 p.m. Jan. 7 and "The Girl in the Sneakers," 3 p.m. New Iranian Cinema: Jan. 4-13. "Daughters of the Sun," Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m. "One More Day," Jan. 5, 7:30 and 9 p.m. "The Child and the Soldier," 7 p.m. Jan. 6 and "The Girl in the Sneakers," 8:30 p.m. "Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine," Jan. 7, 5:30 p.m. New PFA Theater, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-1412. www.ufampfberkeley.edu/pfa

Parkway Speakeasy Theater — Call for a schedule of listings. \$5. 1834 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-814-2400. www.pictureupbpizza.com

New Century Chamber Orchestra — "Jeffrey Kahane Plays Bach," Jan. 11, 8 p.m. Featuring a program of Bach, Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky under the direction of Krista Bennion Feeney. \$25-\$30. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 415-392-4400

San Francisco Chamber Orchestra — Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Featuring music by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Beethoven. Jan. 12, 8 p.m. Featuring music by Bach, Harrison and Haydn. \$15. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-524-3682

Cal Performances — "The Mighty Clouds of Joy," Jan. 19, 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. The Grammy Award-winning gospel group will give a Schooltime Performance in the morning and a show with the Campbell Brothers that evening. \$3. Schooltime Performance: \$16. \$20 evening performance. UC Berkeley, Zellerbach Hall; Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley. 510-642-9988

Jazzschool La Note — "Winter Sunday Concert Series," Jan. 14. Pascal Bokar, Jan. 21. Brenda Boykin and the Eric Swinderman Quartet, Jan. 28. Ann Dyer Trio. Free. JazzSchool/La Note, 2377 Shattuck, Berkeley. 510-845-5373

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club — "J. Byrd Hosch and the Kountry Kays," Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Featuring J. Byrd Hosch, the Kountry Kays and vocalist Mary Martin for a night of dancing and listening. \$20 advance, \$23 door; doors open 30 minutes before the concert. Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-339-1832

Patti La Belle — Dec. 29, 8 p.m. \$40 to \$65. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 415-421-8497

Ashkenaz — Tonight: Surco Nuevo. Sat.: Legion of Mary with Martin Fiero, New Monsoon, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054

The Baltic — Tonight: Bachelors. Sat.: Rick Kalleg Band. 135 Park

See EVENTS, Page C5

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change.
Call theaters for information.

Compiled by Hollywood.com

* Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday, December 29.

Alameda County

Act 1 & II

Center St. off Shattuck, Berkeley 843-FLM
• *Crushing Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:30, 3:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30.

Albany Twin

5000 San Pablo Ave. Albany 843-FLM

• *Matrix* (R) 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45

• *Star and Main* (R) 4:15, 4:45, 9:00

California Theaters

On Kehoe at Shattuck, Berkeley 843-FLM

• *Chocolat* (PG-13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35

• *A Hard Day's Night* (NR) 1:00, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45

• *Quills* (R) 3:00, 4:05, 6:45, 9:20

Century 25 Union City Union Landing *

3210 Union Landing Road, Union City 873-9533

• 102 Dalmatians (G) 11:45 a.m., 2:15

• All the Pretty Horses (PG-13) 11:10 a.m., 1:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:25

• *Cast Away* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., noon, 1:00, 2:25, 3:25, 4:30, 6:20, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:30

• *Empire's New Grove* (G) 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 5:05, 7:45, 10:35

• *Crushing Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:25, 2:15, 3:30, 4:10, 4:45, 6:15, 7:30, 8:30, 10:25

• *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (PG) 11:45 a.m., 2:35, 3:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45

• *Dude, Where's My Car?* (PG-13) 11:35 a.m., 1:45, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30

• *The Emperor's New Grove* (G) 11:20 a.m., 12:15, 1:25, 2:30, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:30, 8:00, 10:00

• *Festival Walnut Creek* (G) 11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:25, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30

• *Family Man* (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

• *Miss Congeniality* (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

• *Proof of Life* (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *Quills* (R) 3:00, 4:05, 6:45, 9:20

• *Star and Main* (R) 4:15, 4:45, 9:00

• *Vertical Limit* (PG-13) 12:45, 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45

• *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000* (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:45

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 12:00, 12:55, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 12:00, 12:55, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45

• *Chabot Cinema*

2853 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 582-2555

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Elmwood

2850 Elmhurst Ave., Berkeley 843-0530

• *Charli's Angels* (PG-13) 4:45, 7:05, 9:05

• *The Contender* (R) 7:00

• *Remember the Titans* (PG) 5:00, 9:25

• *Two Family House* (R) 7:15

• *What's Cooking?* (PG-13) 4:30, 9:30

Fine Arts Cinema - Berkley *

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 843-1143

Closed for holidays from 12/24/00 to 01/02/01

Grand Lake Theater

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 452-3556

• *All the Pretty Horses* (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

• *Cast Away* (PG-13) noon, 1:30, 3:30, 9:30

• *The Family Man* (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *Miss Congeniality* (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Jack London Cinema *

100 Washington St., Oakland 433-1320

• *Cast Away* (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (PG) 11:25 a.m., 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

• *Dude, Where's My Car?* (PG-13) 11:10 a.m., 1:20, 3:30, 5:50, 8:05, 10:25

• *The Emperor's New Grove* (PG) 10:55 a.m., 1:10, 2:30, 3:30, 7:45, 9:55

• *The Family Man* (PG-13) 11:05 a.m., 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:45

• *Finding Forrester* (PG-13) noon, 3:55, 7:15, 10:10

• *Vertical Limit* (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50

• *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000* (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:35

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25

Fine 9 Cinemas Hayward *

18991 Highway Blvd., Hayward 788-8000

• 102 Dalmatians (G) noon, 2:30, 4:30, 6:00

• *Charli's Angels* (PG-13) 7:50, 10:20

• *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (PG) 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40

• *Dude, Where's My Car?* (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15

• *Dungeons & Dragons* (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2:40, 5:10, 8:00

• *The Emperor's New Grove* (G) 12:15, 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

• *The Family Man* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00

• *Meet the Parents* (PG-13) 2:15, 7:30

• *Proof of Life* (R) 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

• *Rugrats in Paris: The Movie* (G) 11:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:45

• *Unbreakable* (PG-13) 7:45, 10:10

Naz 8 *

38401 Argonaut Hwy, Fremont 797-2000

• *Champion* (NR) 5:00, 9:00

• *Khalid* (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00

• *Mission: Impossible* (NR) 5:00, 9:00

• *Mohamed Ali* (NR) 5:00, 10:00

• *Reign of Fire* (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

• *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

• *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

• *Rocky* (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00

Oaks Theater *

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 526-1938

• *All the Pretty Horses* (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:30

• *Dude, Where's My Car?* (PG-13) noon, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 9:45

Piedmont Theatre

Piedmont at 1st, Oakland 843-FLM

• *Crushing Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15

• *Quills* (R) 1:00, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *Star and Main* (R) 1:40, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15

Shattuck Cinemas *

On Shattuck at Kehoe, Berkeley 843-FLM

• *Best in Show* (PG-13) 1:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:35

• *The Emperor's New Grove* (G) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:30

• *Finding Forrester* (PG-13) 1:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45

• *Miss Congeniality* (PG-13) 1:25, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35

• *Vertical Limit* (PG-13) 1:25, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35

• *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000* (R) 1:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00, 12:00

UA Berkley 7 *

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 843-1487

• *Cast Away* (PG-13) 3:30, 7:00, 9:30, 10:15

• *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (PG) 11:25 a.m., 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

• *Dude, Where's My Car?* (PG-13) 10:45 a.m., 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

• *Empire's New Grove* (G) 10:45 a.m., 1:15, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15

• *Finding Forrester* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

• *Miss Congeniality* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

• *Vertical Limit* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

• *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000* (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20

UA Emeryville 10 *

6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 420-0107

• *Cast Away* (PG-13) 3:30, 7:00, 9:30, 10:20

• *Crushing Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (PG-13) 1:30 a.m., 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00, 12:30 a.m.

• *Dude, Where's My Car?* (PG-13) 10:45 a.m., 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

• *Empire's New Grove* (G) 10:35 a.m., 1:15, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15

• *Finding Forrester* (PG-13) 1:15 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

• *Miss Congeniality* (PG-13) 1:15 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

• *Vertical Limit* (PG-13) 1:15 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

• *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000* (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20

UA Hayward 6 *

2480 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 788-3000

• *Cast Away* (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10

• *Miss Congeniality* (PG-13) 12:30, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30

• *Star and Main* (R) 1:40, 4:45, 6:45, 9:15

• *Vertical Limit* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 5:00, 8:00

• *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000* (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20

UA Galaxy *

2355 Soler St., San Francisco 415/474-8700

• *Cast Away* (PG-13) 1:00, 7:00, 7:45, 10:15, 11:00

• *Crushing Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (PG-13) 1:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 7:00

• *Cyberwars* (G) 1:00 a.m., 6:20

• *Fantasia 2000* (G) 1:00

• *Vertical Limit* (PG-13) 1:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:10

• *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000* (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 7:00, 9:45

• *What Women Want* (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20

UA Hayward 6 *

2480 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 788-3000

• *Cast Away* (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10

• *Miss Congeniality* (PG-13) 12:30, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30

• *Star and Main* (R) 1:40, 4:45, 6:45, 9:15

• *Vertical Limit* (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 5:00, 8:00

• *Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000* (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:4

Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

NOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

Who could rain displeasure on a *Grinch*? Who could be sincere, yet seems to fail? Why, a *Grinch*, that's who, and that would be me, to tell you this, and a too much stick from Jim Carrey in the costumes astound, the sight gags round but the heart, oh the heart, now must be found. It's a fairy tale made out of truth, and with calculated schmaltz, the love, the glistening moments and the message get lost. Misplaced jokes, poor sight, Shakespearean musical numbers — it could have worked, but oh, how director *Howard* blundered. — V. Chan (PG-13: coarse humor) 1 hour, 42 minutes. C

MALINA'S The director of the beloved *Malina's Paradise* cooked up this familiar coming-of-age tale about a teen's affection for a Sufi (Monica Bellucci). While the story is simple, *Malina* manages to sustain interest, thanks to the ravishing location and the two lead performances. — V. Wu (R: sexual situations and one scene of shocking violence) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B

MEET THE PARENTS: Nothing goes right for poor Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) when he meets his girlfriend Pam's (Teri Polo) parents, Dan (Robert De Niro, a reclusive CIA psychologist) and Pam's (Monica Bellucci). For a beautiful older couple, the sexual situations and one scene of shocking violence) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B

REMEMBER THE TITANS: Someone should really let that Presidential Commission on Race Relations know that the secret to dispersing racial tensions is football. At least, that's what this well-intentioned but overwrought Denzel Washington movie would have us believe. Based on what happened when a real high school in Alexandria, Virginia, was integrated in 1971 and white and black football players were forced to be on a team together, this highly calculated Jerry Bruckheimer production gives us football as a panacea for bigotry, all wrapped up in a squishy crowd-pleasing package. Make it a rental. — M. Poli. (PG-13: disturbing violent content and a crude sexual reference, some language) 1 hour, 47 minutes. B

REQUIEM FOR A DREAM: Very good but hard to recommend, because watching it is such a brutal experience.

Adapted (barely) from the Hubert Selby Jr. novel of the same name, *Requiem* takes a hard look at drug addiction. Ellen Burstyn is a lonely Coney Island widow who gets hooked on diet pills. Jared Leto plays her son, who, along with girlfriend Jennifer Connelly and best friend Marion Wayans, is addicted to heroin. Director Darren Aronofsky ("Pi") plays a series of visual tricks on us, creatively, on fire, and so are all four actors. — M. Poli. (NR: extensive drug use, some nudity and some graphic sexuality) 1 hour, 42 minutes. A

MISS CONGENIALITY: A charming and clever romp a comic feature the lovable group of babies and toddlers from TV's *The Rugrats*. The good news is that not only kids, but their families will enjoy their second cinematic adventure, which finds the *Rugrats* going to Paris when Stu Pickles is summoned to an amusement park to fix his mechanical monster invention. (Stu is the father of the *Rugrats*, the *Rugrats* are run by a villain, and the *Rugrats* uncover a shady plot.

Rather than falling into the trap of being overly cute, *Rugrats in Paris* opts for being funny, even spoofing "The Godfather" for the adults in the crowd to enjoy. — M. Ritter (G) 1 hour, 18 minutes. B

WHAT'S COOKING? A decent action flick starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as a family junkhead who discovers he's been cloned and now is a marked man. The action sequences are fun, and Arnie lightens up, infusing the film with some humor. Still, it's middle-of-the-line Schwarzenegger, on a par with "Total Recall" but well below James Cameron's "True Lies" and "Terminator" flicks. Robert Duvall brings weary charm to his role as a cloning researcher. — D. Germain. (PG-13: strong action violence, brief strong language and some sensuality) 2 hours, 4 minutes. B
THE 6TH DAY: A decent action flick starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as a family junkhead who discovers he's been cloned and now is a marked man. The action sequences are fun, and Arnie lightens up, infusing the film with some humor. Still, it's middle-of-the-line Schwarzenegger, on a par with "Total Recall" but well below James Cameron's "True Lies" and "Terminator" flicks. Robert Duvall brings weary charm to his role as a cloning researcher. — D. Germain. (PG-13: strong action violence, brief strong language and some sensuality) 2 hours, 4 minutes. B
STATE AND MAIN: A David Mamet movie about a Hollywood film crew setting up shop in small Vermont town. It's not as sharp and biting as you'd expect from Mamet, but it's pretty good fun. Alec Baldwin plays an egotistical star with a predilection for teenage girls. Sarah Jessica Parker a starlet who doesn't want to take off her shirt, and Philip Seymour Hoffman is the forlorn writer who's been told he has to radically alter his story to fit the location. — M. Poli. (R: language and brief sexuality) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B
102 DALMATIANS: Glenn Close is back as Cruella De Vil in this sequel to Disney's 1996 live-action version of everyone's favorite *Dalmatian* story. But now she wants to be called "Ella" (Cruella sounds too *cat*), seems aversion therapy has cured her of her *fur*, we'll see about that. Close is as deliciously villainous as ever, she is perfectly serviceable, the dogs are all (although we don't get to know it well enough; there's only one dog *star*) and there's little to complain about. The kids will like it, and unless you hate puppies, you probably be entertained as well. — M. Poli. (G) 1 hour, 41 minutes. B
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QUILLS: Bay Area filmmaker Philip Kaufman returns to directing after a seven-year absence with a big splash, a movie about the Marquis de Sade that has best-picture nomination written all over it. Geoffrey Rush ("Shine") plays the infamous pornographer, who has been imprisoned in an insane asylum. He keeps churning out the porn, which is smuggled out to his publisher by a comely laundress, played by Kate Winslet. The movie feels almost like a farce until the Marquis' quills (his pens) are taken from him by a doctor (Michael Caine) who plans to "cure" him of his sickness, and everything grows dark and tragic. You won't see a better collection of actors at work this year. — M. Poli. (R: strong sexual content, including dialogue, violence and language) 2 hours, 3 minutes. C

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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Luna Kids Dance kicks off its winter session with free Open Houses and Parent/Child classes from 5-6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Luna Kids Dance offers creative-base and acting classes for youth ages 3-17. For more information, call the LKD central office, 541-4113.

The Buddy Club presents *Derique as "The Classy Clown"* on Sunday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m. to noon at the Albany Community Center Theater, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. The shows are targeted for kids ages 2 through 12 and their parents and include audience participation. Limited unreserved tickets are sold at the door. Call 236-3900 for tickets, party reservations and show information.

Fall 2000 registration for Albany Preschool, 850 Masonic Ave., takes place on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Applications will be taken for the morning and afternoon programs in the order they are received. Priority is given to Albany residents. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee to be paid at the time of registration. For more information, contact the preschool at 527-6403.

The City of El Cerrito, offers special programs for children from 22 months to five years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Moeser Lane. For more information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Luna Kids Dance (LKD) offers dance and acting classes for children and teens ages 3-17 in a fun and supportive environment. Locations: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave.; El Cerrito, Contra Costa Civic Theater, 951 Pomona Ave.; Oakland, Glenview Performing Arts Center, 1318 Glenview Ave. and Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd. For more information, call the LKD central office at 530-4113.

LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at famlyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-799-8560 classes.

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at actual University of California field research stations, and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2275 or e-mail to: lnsinfo@uclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

"Theater Rats." Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuroopathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

A discussion and social group meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The next meeting is Jan. 2, Topic: The Legal and Judicial System. The free discussion group is open to everyone regardless of age, religion or viewpoint; no point of view is pushed. The meetings are held at the Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Ave. Bring light snacks or drinks to share. For more information, call Robert Berend, 527-5332.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing.

The Cecile Mochenek Gallery, 1809 D Fourth St., presents an exhibition entitled "The Gift of Art: Small Works," new works by Stuart Allen, Dina Angel-Wing, Hedi Desujo, Jennifer Kent, Ines Kramer, Lucy Matzger, Michael Shemchuk, and Seiko Tachibana. The show runs through Jan. 16, Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays, noon-5 p.m. For more information, call 549-1018.

The UC Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, presents the exhibit "Amazon in the Drawing Room: The Art of Romaine Brooks," through Jan. 16. For more information, call 642-0808 or visit the Web site at www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.

The City of El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-8 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Opportunities will be provided for students to explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided on request. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.50 nonresidents. The location: Tas-

ing business. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

Marion Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experimental practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkris Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 845-6606.

Berkley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 644-8736.

Berkley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meets Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice-Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ALCA chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

"Work Buddies", volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic; 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-in-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

The John F. Kennedy University Arts Annex, 2956 San Pablo Ave., continues its "Fourth Annual Faculty Exhibition," through Jan. 4. The exhibit includes paintings by F. Bogazian, M. Grady, L. Hyams, F. Martin, J. Morgan, and C. Peirano. Cost: free. Hours: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 649-0499 for more information.

ACCI Gallery exhibits a Celebration of Light, Holiday 2000, through Dec. 31 featuring the members of ACCI and guest artists. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Kala Gallery features an exhibit of more than 60 artists affiliated with the gallery through Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2001. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley near Ashby and San Pablo avenues. Call 549-2977.

The Fig Tree Gallery, 2599 Eighth St. #42, presents "The Annual Holiday Group Show and Sale" through Dec. 30. The exhibit features paintings, sculptures and mixed media by 25 East Bay artists. Hours: Thursdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Call 540-7843 for appointments. Call Bonnie Mager, 628-7907, for more information.

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NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CHRISTMAS PLAY

BY BILL ZAIS / EDITED BY WIL SHORTZ

1 Stock market figures	56 Hip-hop's ___ Kim	113 Taskmaster's cry	15 Elephant seat
6 1994 Jodie Foster title role	57 Played (around)	114 Stoppage	16 Financial fig
10 Cribbage equipment	60 Hellish	115 Eur land	17 P.T.A.-aligned
14 Macbeth or Macduff	62 Musical retrospective maybe	118 Slummin' Sammy	18 Clairvoyance, e.g.
19 Dunderpate	64 Kind of jump	119 Christmas?	24 Like most Christmas trees
20 Lip balm ingredient	65 Island singer	120 Carol singers	26 Paulo
21 Part of a spread	67 Meeting reading	121 Take out	29 Show pique
22 Hornswogger, with "in"	69 Relives (of)	130 Island in the Tyrannian Sea	31 Israeli leaders?
23 Community with its Christmas decorations up?	70 Who is stronger than Superman?	131 Money envelopes on a Christmas tree?	32 Caused to go
25 Gift-giver's comment after tying the bow?	72 Tire reinforcement	132 Carolers	33 Attempts at decorating a tree?
27 Small group of carolers	73 Not seriously	133 Milk symbol	35 One with a gift
28 Product made by Armor All	75 Shows of joy	134 Pastels	37 Tree holder, in an indoor football game?
30 In stock	77 Gum arabic tree	135 Sound of a leak	38 Like the rich and beautiful
31 Out	80 Westernmost African city	136 Difficult to fathom	39 Some mattresses
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35 Native Missourians	84 Curve enhancer	138 Like the rich and beautiful	42 Caused
40 Ends, as class	91 HBO competitor	139 Treat with contempt	43 N.L. Central team: Abbr.
42 Noted pilgrimage site	92 Noncompromiser	140 ___ Ten sch.	47 Potato dish, in British slang
44 Call	94 Architect Saarinen	141 Big Ten sch.	49 Researcher's staple
45 J.F.K. times	96 French 101 verb grp.	142 The Autobiography of Miss Jane ___	54 Actress Charlotte
46 Kind of cheese	97 P.G.A. champ Sutton	143 Place to stay	55 Tokyo, once
48 Way of life	98 Combative sort, they say	144 Helped out, in a way	56 Kudler
50 1990 film autobiography "___: My Story"	99 Sicilian wine	145 Irishman, informally	57 Scarf down
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	108 Extra pages, say	149 Curtoonist	68 Gillette product
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	112 Congo native		72 The Autobiography of Miss Jane ___

73 Not seriously	113 Taskmaster's cry	15 Elephant seat	83 Treat with contempt
75 Shows of joy	114 Stoppage	16 Financial fig	84 Like some ancient markers
77 Gum arabic tree	115 Eur land	17 P.T.A.-aligned	86 Is mess
79 Gum arabic tree	116 Eur land	18 Clairvoyance, e.g.	88 Not pleased
80 Westernmost African city	117 Eur land	19 Christmas?	90 Like a doctor patient
82 Westernmost	118 Slummin' Sammy	20 ___ good turn (helps out)	93 Miami's Eden
84 Curve enhancer	119 Christmas?	21 ___ Switch	95 Suffix with pa
86 Curve enhancer	120 Carol singers	22 ___ Gillette product	100 Piedmont province

day, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779

Literary Events

Authors Kristen Lawson and Anneli Rufus discuss their book "California Babylon: A Guide to Scandal, Mayhem, and Celluloid in the Golden State," on Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. at Easy Going Travel Shop and Bookstore, 1385 Shattuck Ave. The event is free. Call 843-3533 for more information

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121

Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It is available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge, after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

Meetings

A discussion and social group meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. The next meeting is Jan. 2. Topic: The Legal and Judicial System. The free discussion group is

2001

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Calendar

FROM PAGE C6

Karen, 525-6858
Toastmasters, noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays, stand up and say what you mean, practice with the toastmasters, 700 Hennz Ave., Berkeley, 833-6708

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Berkeley Details, 204-6370.

The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hilegas Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For more information, call 869-2547 or 442-7645.

Music

Spunk, Funk, and Glitter perform at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19 at Mama Bear's

Bookstore, 6536 Telegraph Avenue. The trio includes Bay Area singer-songwriters Allie Brooks, Rachel Garin, and Elena Powell. The Berkeley group sings original folk rock music. Call 525-7975 for more information.

'Sweet Honey in the Rock', the Grammy award-winning African American female a cappella ensemble, perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19 at UC Berkeley Campus, Zellerbach Hall. The quintet, whose words are simultaneously interpreted in uniquely expressive American Sign Language, has deep musical roots in the spirituals, hymns, gospel, and jazz and blues. Tickets: \$27.50 and \$25 reserved seats. To charge by phone call 642-9988. For more information, call 415-789-0188, or e-mail JR.

PRODS@aoi.com
Cal Performances presents Grammy Award-winning gospel ensemble "The Mighty Clouds of Joy," and steel guitarists "The Campbell Brothers" at 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19 at Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus. Tickets: \$16, \$20 and \$28. Tickets can be purchased by calling 642-9988 to charge by phone, or e-mail tickets@calperfs.berkeley.edu, or at the door.

The Jazzschool/LaNote, 2377 Shattuck Ave., presents "An Afternoon of Afro Jazz with Pascal Bokar," at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 14. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 students/semesters, and \$6 Jazzschool students and children under 13. For reservations or more information, call

845-5373
La Pena Cultural Center and Cafe pre

See CALENDAR, Page 8

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SAN FRANCISCO (Union at Webster)
 2102 Union St. 415-931-4300
SAN FRANCISCO (Between Sanchez & Noe)
 2258 Market Street 415-437-1600

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BURLINGAME
 1118 Burlingame Ave. 650-558-9900
COLMA (280 Metro Center)
 13 Colma Blvd. 650-301-5000
DALY CITY (Westlake Shopping Center)
 343 Mayfair Ave. 650-758-3600
MENLO PARK (Between Valparaiso & Oak Grove)
 1283 El Camino Real 650-688-0800
MOUNTAIN VIEW (Blossom Valley Shopping Ctr)
 1776 Miramonte Ave. 650-934-0830

MOUNTAIN VIEW

2464 El Camino Real 650-691-9700
PALO ALTO
 4191 El Camino Real 650-320-8000
PALO ALTO (Palo Alto Downtown)
 476 University Ave. 650-324-2300
SAN CARLOS (El Camino & San Carlos Ave)
 1101 San Carlos Ave. 650-508-8200
SAN MATEO (Next to Benjamin Franklin Hotel)
 60 E. Third Ave. 650-543-2900
SUNNYVALE
 219 El Camino Real 408-616-0006

EAST BAY

BENICIA (Southampton Shopping Ctr)
 818 Southampton 707-751-3900
BERKELEY (Solano & Piedra)
 1559 Solano 510-559-3100
LAFFAYETTE (Town Center)
 3592 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-284-6300
MARTINEZ (Mois Station Shopping Ctr)
 514 Center Ave. 925-577-8800
OAKLAND
 3900 Piedmont 510-594-9700
OAKLAND (Montclair District)
 2067 Mountain Blvd. 510-338-9900
OAKLAND (Lakeshore at 580)
 3201 Lakeshore Dr. 510-208-3300
PLEASANTON (Hopyard & Stone Ridge)
 4555 Hopyard Rd. 925-734-0400

SAN LEANDRO (Juana at 14th)
 120 Juana 510-614-9500

SAN RAMON (Bishop Ranch)
 134 Sunset Dr. C-1A 925-327-7100
SAN RAMON (Diablo Plaza)
 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd. 925-362-0700

UNION CITY (Union Landing)

32280 Dyer 510-487-6600

SOUTH BAY

GILROY (Prime Retail Outlet)
 681 Leavesley 408-846-5666

MILPITAS (McCarthy Ranch)
 238 Ranch Dr. 408-946-4300

SANTA CLARA (Mission College Blvd)

4300 Great America Pkwy. 408-563-1600

SANTA CLARA (Stevens Creek & Lawrence Exp.)

5155 Stevens Creek Blvd. 408-243-1200

SARATOGA (Argonaut Center)

12868 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd. 408-872-8900

SAN JOSE

1525 Meridian 408-445-2400

SAN JOSE (Camden & Union Next to Lucky's)

2043 Camden Ave. 408-369-8700

SAN JOSE (Bernal Shopping Ctr)

125 Bernal Rd. 408-361-0120

SAN JOSE (Capitol Square Mall)
 384 N. Capitol Ave. 408-254-8900

SAN JOSE (Alameda & W. Julian St)

1354 The Alameda 408-993-1400

NORTH BAY

SAN RAFAEL
 1303 4th Street 415-482-0888

SANTA ROSA (Next to Patio World & Starbucks)

1620 Mendocino 707-591-5500

NAPA (Silverado Plaza)

629 Trancos 707-265-7700

SOUTH/MONTEREY

MONTEREY (Del Monte Shopping Ctr)

400 Del Monte Center 831-642-0100

SEASIDE (Laguna Plaza)

1130 N. Fremont 831-392-1800

SALINAS (Westridge Shopping Ctr, Next to Applebees)

12918 N. Fremont 831-759-9400

WATSONVILLE (Overlook Shopping Ctr)

1443 Main St. 831-768-1200

FRESNO

FRESNO (Shaw & Feland)

3191 Shaw Ave. 559-543-2000

FRESNO (Cedar & Shepard)

8817 N. Cedar 559-353-3999

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MARIN (Corte Madera)

1000 Corte Madera 415-947-1000

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1000 Larkspur Landing 415-453-1000

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MARIN (Sausalito)

1000 Sausalito Blvd. 415-362-1000

MARIN (West Marin)

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MARIN (West Marin)

Calendar

FROM PAGE C7

sents an evening of socially relevant, topical original music with Bird in the Hand and Rebecca Riots on Saturday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m. Admission: \$12 general, \$10 students. For more information, call 849-2568, or visit the Web site at www.lapena.org.

Chamber Music Sundae presents San Francisco Symphony musicians, on Jan. 14, 3:15 p.m. The program includes Mozart Quartet, Marvin English Horn duet and Schumann Quartet. Future concerts will be on Jan. 28, March 18, April 15, May 27 and July 15. Single tickets may be purchased at the door a half-hour before concerts: \$15 general, \$13 students and seniors, \$7 youth under 18. For single concert phone orders, call City Box Office at 392-4400. **The Distaff Singers**, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required, just a love of singing. Classical, pop, sacred, Broadway. Rehearsals Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677.

Ducksan Distones, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isalai Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Giustino on Fretless Gibson L4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave., \$4; call 525-1542.

Outdoors

Catherine Stifter of Backcountry Tracks presents a free slide presentation on great ski and snowshoe tours north of Truckee in Tahoe National Forest on Thursday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m. Stifter will talk about the variety of terrain that's accessible on a day, tour as well as tips on gear and navigation. For more information, call 527-4140.

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Lelia 555-3917.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointment and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-6370 for additional information, leave a message for Anne Levine.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of up-

coming classes call 925-820-1021

Support

The pain and grief associated with the death of a loved one can often feel overwhelming — especially during the holidays. Many people suffer isolation. The grief counseling project is here to help. No one is turned away for lack of money. Call 889-1104.

"The Grief Care Community" offers 8-week bereavement support groups as well as art therapy grief groups, and individual support. Call 540-0830 for additional information.

The local self-help group for Berkeley National Multiple Sclerosis Society meets periodically. Call Toni at 653-4534 for additional information.

Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus offers a guided relaxation and visualization for people with cancer every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at its Comprehensive Cancer Center, first floor Conference Room, 2001 Dwight Way. The Center offers this solution with an innovative approach to reducing stress and anxiety and creating positive, life-affirming images. Call 204-1811 for additional information. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

Alta Bates Medical Center, offers a Grief Education Class every third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon at ABMC Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. The class covers common and personal grief reactions. Fee: \$10. No one is refused due to inability to pay. For further information, contact 841-2930.

Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for stroke survivors and their families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month, from 4-5 p.m. at the Herrick Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center. There is no admission charge and advance registration is not necessary. Call 204-4503 for additional information.

The Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center Salton, Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.balf.org.

The City of Berkeley Portable Meals program desperately needs drivers to deliver 15 meals once a week to home-bound seniors. Call 644-8590.

The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education group presents Dorothy Dorenz, a state certified massage and movement therapist, who teaches self-healing methods. Bring a small pillow, and wear loose, comfortable clothing. For directions or more information, call 204-4503.

Lecture/Workshop

The Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay, 2484 Shattuck Ave., Ste. 210, offers a two-hour workshop for high school seniors. Students

will look at their decision making process and learn how to manage stress. Participants discuss life after high school, including how peer and parental relationships change, the completion and pressure to get into college, employment, and other post-graduation options. Call 704-7475 for more information.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. For information call 237-0840 or visit the web site at www.ccce.k12.ca.us/rop.

"What is Meditation?" is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Pragito Dove is the facilitator. Call 644-0861 for additional information.

Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Theater, Dance & Film

Cal Performances presents AEROS, a fusion of art and athleticism, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 21 at UC Berkeley Campus Zellerbach Hall. AEROS features choreographers Daniel Ezralow, David Parsons, and Moses Pendleton in collaboration with the creators of "Stomp" and members of the Rumanian gymnastics team. Tickets, \$20 and \$32, are available through the Cal Performances ticket office at Zellerbach Hall. To charge by phone, call 642-9988. The Sunday performance features half-price tickets for children ages 16 and under. For more information, call 642-0212.

Pacific Film Archive presents the Ninth Children's International Film Festival on Sundays, Jan. 7, 14, and 21 and Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25. Sunday matinee programs present some 20 animated and live-action features and shorts. The screenings take place at the New PFA theater at UC Berkeley campus, 2575 Bancroft Way near Bowditch Street. Admission is \$4 for adults and children. For further information about programs or tickets, call PFD at 642-1412.

The Pacific Film Archive offers a course in film history "Film 50: History of Cinema," 3 to 6 p.m. beginning Jan. 17 and continuing through May 2. Call 642-5249 for more information.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., presents "Fall," a coming-of-age comedy by Bridget Carpenter, Wednesday, Jan. 24, through Sunday, March 11. Tickets: \$15.95 to \$51. For ticket information, call 647-2949, or visit the Web site at www.berkeleyrep.org.

Aurora Theatre Company has extended its production of Conor McPherson's

"The Weir," through Dec. 30 at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Duran Ave

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"The Weir," through Dec. 30 at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Duran Ave

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"The Weir," through Dec. 3

Calendar

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It is set in a rural Irish pub where women try to impress a visiting woman with spooky stories, until she leaves them all with her own tickets, \$30. Call 843-4822 or visit www.auroreatheatre.org for more information.

Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison, continues its production of "Love with Friends" through Jan. 5 and Marquise Pulitzer prize-winning comedy, directed by Richard Seyd, ex-marry and friendship in mid-20s. Tickets are priced between \$20.25 and \$51, depending on the day of the week. Group discounts: adults and senior half price. "Rush" tickets are available. The theater is wheelchair accessible and has seating for the visually and hearing impaired. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Berkeley Box Office at 647-2949.

Traditional Folkdancing takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, 1-3 p.m. at Ashkenaz, 317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Clark. We welcome all ages. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. Great opportunity for families to dance together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. No registration required. Adults \$2. Call 632-3713.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Jennifer of Shagtime Dance Instruction on Mondays at the Work Studio, 3500 Telegraph Ave., 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2660 Ninth. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Maranion at 635-7858.

Community College, 2020 Movie St., offers a series of international business classes and workshops beginning Jan. 16. The classes are designed for entry-level students, entrepreneurs and seasoned trade professionals. Call 981-2852 for more information.

Community College, 2020 Movie St., begins its spring 2001 semester on Jan. 16. Enrollment is open through Saturday, Jan. 27. Register at the Internet at www.cc.ca.us or at the college. Registration times are Mondays and Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Wednesday, through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enrollment for short-term and semester classes is open until the class begins. Call 981-2852 for additional information.

Senior Employment offers a job search program for income-eligible seniors 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville and Albany. Earn while you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Class starts soon. Call 707-554 for more information.

Many YMCA offers after school programs for elementary and middle school children. The YMCA offers swimming, dance programs, gymnasiums, hip hop and enrichment programs such as cooking, sewing and art. Financial assistance always available. For more information, call 525-1500.

Arts Center for the Arts, 2640 Telegraph Ave., offers a family-friendly program of classes, workshops and activities aimed at bringing arts participation into people's everyday lives.

Workshops take place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 1901 Telegraph Ave., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, see www.morgan.org or call 845-8542.

Berkeley Adult School (BAS) offers child education classes, High

School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be utilized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes ranging from introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications. Call 644-6130 for additional information.

The South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes. For additional information and class scheduling, call 883-5222.

Interview Clinics sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Center at 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time. Be sure to leave a name and telephone number.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Tuesdays, by appointment. The class is free to YWCA members. This technique is designed to help individuals understand themselves better. Call 848-6370 for additional information. Leave a message for Anna Levine.

The Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., presents an introductory class for the home fruit grower. Proper pruning increases the flavor and size of fruit, as well as preserves the health and longevity of the tree. There will also be a demonstration of various pruning tools. The class is taught by Greg Pack, owner of an organic landscape and garden design business in the East Bay. Cost is \$10 for nonmembers; \$7.50 for members. Call 548-2220 to reserve a space.

The van der Zanden Studio, 1025 Carleton, No. 9, offers sculpture classes. All levels. Call 843-9445 for additional information.

A CopWatch class takes place every Monday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2022 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 548-0425 for additional information.

Berkeley Community Media (BCM), Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. For more information call 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dance classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalarjali Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community center. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 and older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness Classes open to all in

flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, bellydance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre

dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido,

pilates-based body conditioning and

more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way,

Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug; 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591. \$40 for four classes.

Volunteers

AARP seeks volunteers to prepare income tax returns, both State and Federal, for low and moderate income individuals, with emphasis on seniors age 60 and over. Volunteers are trained and may be accepted until Jan. 4. Counseling sites are located in libraries, senior centers and other buildings in Oakland, Berkeley and Albany, and operate Feb.

1 to April 15. Counselors must work a minimum of four hours a week. No spe-

cial background is required, but the ability to work with numbers and follow written instructions is needed. Classes provided during two weeks.

See CALENDAR, Page C11

Every day of the year, who gives you the latest, hottest updates on all prep, college and national sports?

Contra Costa Newspapers, that's who.



CONTRA COSTA NEWSPAPERS
CONTRA COSTA TIMES • WEST COUNTY TIMES
VALLEY TIMES • SAN RAMON VALLEY TIMES

At RadioShack, we'll not only help you find just the right phone and rate plan, but we'll also give you a free \$75 Cool Things Card by mail. Good toward cellular accessories or almost anything in the store.**

R **RadioShack**
You've got questions. We've got answers.

Get Started on Family SharePlan
Activate a new two year service agreement on any Family SharePlan and receive a \$15 credit on the monthly bill for 3 months

Requires new service on any Family SharePlan with a two year service agreement including additional lines of new service with a two-year service agreement. This promotion can be combined with the one time \$50 2-year service credit for signing a two year contract. Not available on one year contracts or contract renewals. Digital Equipment required on one line of the Family SharePlan, remaining lines may be digital or analog. Service Activation fee charged on each line of the Family SharePlan. Not available on Business Share Plans. Offer ends 12/31/00.

Verizon wireless
AT&T Wireless

FREE \$75 GIFT CARD

BY MAIL WHEN YOU PURCHASE AND ACTIVATE SELECT CELLULAR PHONES.**

FREE Motorola T2260

With activation (\$200.00 without)
Lightweight dual-mode
Talkabout® digital-cellular with built-in Internet browser (where service available), and built-in headset jack
#17-1621-22/23/24/25



LAKERIDGE Athletic Club
Specials for Seniors & Students!

COMPLIMENTARY DAY PASS

Must bring this pass in to be redeemed. Must be at least 18. Must not be a current member. Must be a local resident. Must sign guest register, and lake club tour and presentation prior to using the club. Pass excludes child care. Service hours and facilities may vary. Additional charges for some services.

Pool • Aerobics • Cardiovascular Equipment • Free Weights • Tennis • Racquetball • Sauna • Locker Rooms • Available Child Care • Youth Programs • Senior Rates & Activities • Student Rates • Social Activities • Jacuzzi

Childcare Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 8:30pm
Saturday - Sunday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Our Club Hours:
Weekdays: 5am - 10pm
Weekends 7:30am - 7pm

6350 San Pablo Dam Rd. El Sobrante
510.222.2500

New Year Special!! 1/2 Off Initiation Fee!
Holiday Gift Certificates available!

*Advertised price requires minimum service commitment with a local authorized carrier, credit approval and may require activation fee. A monthly service fee, long distance fees and charges for airtime will be made. Carrier may impose a penalty for early termination. If you terminate service within 120 days of activation, to avoid a \$200 charge from RadioShack, you must return the phone. Sales tax is based on the unactivated price of the phone per the State Board of Equalization.

**Get a \$75 Cool Things Gift Card when you purchase and activate select cellular phones. Allow 8 to 10 weeks delivery. Offer valid through 12/31/00. Excludes prepaid, upgrades and Sprint PCS. Gift card may not be applied to phone purchase. See sales associate for details.

--PUBLIC NOTIFICATION--**--PUBLIC NOTIFICATION--****LEGAL NOTICE****LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S
FILE NO. NO
0071600164 SERVING

OCWEN FEDERAL
43917 BORROWER
CANTRELL, BORROWER
ARE IN

DEFALU UNDER A DEED
OF TRUST DATED

12/11/97 UNLESS TO PRO-
TECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT
MAY BE SOLD AT A PUB-
LIC SALE. YOU NEED AN
EXPLANATION OF THE NA-
TURE OF THE PROCE-
DURE OR THE PROCE-
DURE AGAINST YOU.

SHOULD CONTACT A
LAWYER ON JANUARY 5
2001 AT 10:00 AM. Fiduciary
National Fiduciary Services
Non Fid Consolidated
Reconveyance Compa-
ny, 43917, and the
Trustee, date of trust dated

December 11, 1997, exe-
cuted by DALE W. CAN-
TRELL, DEBRA K. CAN-
TRELL, and the record-
ed, December 24, 1997, as
Instrument No. 94-01506, on
Page of the official records

of the recorder's office of
CONTRA COSTA County,
California. WILL SELL AT
PUBLIC SALE ON DATED

HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH
OR CASHIER'S CHECK (DRAWN
AND DATED) OR WITHIN
ONE DAY OF THE SALE, IN

THE AMOUNT OF THE

DEED OF TRUST.

The undersigned, Trustee

disclaims any liability for

any inaccuracy in the

deed of trust and other

common designation if

any, shown herein. Said

deed of trust is not a

note or covenant or

warranty of the

property.

AS SAID, LOTS AND
BLOCKS, SUBDIVISIONS

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74 OF THE FINAL PART

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COSTA, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA
2343 ESMOND
AVENUE, RICHMOND, CA
94804 APRN 528-162-005-

00009058601134

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S
FILE NO. NO
1526121, FIDUCIARY NO.
0083014, APRN 528-162-005-
00009058601134

AS SAID, LOTS AND
BLOCKS, SUBDIVISIONS

AND THE A-VARO-
DRAFT, BEING A PART
OF LOTS 71, 72, 73 AND
74 OF THE FINAL PART

OF SAN PABLO RAN-
CHO, CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY RECORDER OF
THE COUNTY OF CONTRA
COSTA, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA
2343 ESMOND
AVENUE, RICHMOND, CA
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Calendar

ON PAGE C9

John Medlock at 524-9283 or come by the Albany Community Center at 1249 Marin avenue for an instructor application.

UC Botanical Garden is looking for volunteers who are interested in plants and who would like to learn how to give tours of the Garden. Knowledge of plants is useful, but not required, and prior teaching experience is also helpful, but not essential. Principal qualifications are to like plants and to enjoy people. The training teaches about the Garden and how to lead tours. Call 643-1924 for more information and an application.

The Richmond Public Library seeks Internet Docents to teach Internet skills and to provide hands-on assistance to library patrons. Volunteers are needed for the main library Adult Department, the Children's Department, and the Bayview or West Side branch libraries. Volunteers agree to work with the public for at least one three-hour slot per week for a three-month period. Solid Internet skills, including knowledge of Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer and the ability to use two search engines well are required. Applications are available at the information desk at the main library or at the two branches. For more information, call 620-6561.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley needs volunteers. The center serves women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Hours: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call volunteer coordinator Mary Sonnen at 834-FOOD for more information and a current volunteer newsletter.

Contra Costa County Volunteers in Protection are continually seeking dependent youths, 21 years plus, who want to spend time with youth on probation.

Training will be provided and screening of all applicants is required by the Probation Department. If you are interested, contact Thompson, Director of Volunteers in Protection, 925-313-4187 or email thompson@hotmail.com.

Parental Stress Service, Inc. seeks volunteers needed at Good Stuff Thrift Shop in El Cerrito. A fun, friendly place to work, all proceeds benefit developmentally disabled children and adults. Call 528-9455 for additional information.

Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave., needs compassionate volunteers to help women with cancer through its information and referral hotline, library, or in-home practical support.

Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application interview and more information.

Parental Stress Service, Inc. seeks volunteers

to serve as Telephone Hotline Counselors. The agency offers supportive counseling to families who need to be heard. To learn more about volunteer opportunities call 893-9230.

Volunteer at the Crucible, 1035 Murray St. Sharpen skills, and meet new people in the community. All talents are appreciated. The Crucible is an educational collaboration of arts, industry and community. Call 843-5511 or e-mail crucible@jps.net for more information and on how to get involved.

There is an immediate need for Home De-

livered Meal volunteers at the "Open House" Senior Center to deliver noon day meals to the homebound in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex. For more information, call Nichols at 215-4342.

Breast Cancer Action, an advocacy and activist organization aimed to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, activist and task force help, and office work during the week, are available. Call 415-243-9301, for additional information.

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Named one of the top 25 best Bay Area restaurants by S.F. Examiner Magazine, Mazzini Trattoria serves straight forward Italian cuisine made with the finest ingredients, priced for good value, served professionally all in a warm and comfortable atmosphere. Enjoy a classic cocktail or a glass of wine with your lunch or dinner. Open daily. Weekend brunches.

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The menu focuses on
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from tantalizing appetizers (sautéed
asparagus with pancetta, grilled
portobello mushroom) to perfectly
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risotto), and rich dessert like warm
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CONTINENTAL CUISINE

Grand Oaks Restaurant
3701 Grand Ave., Oakland
(510) 451-5253

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nental menu features steaks, lamb,
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ties include soup or salad, and are
priced to eat. Attention is paid to
presentation and preparation. Also
there's a full service bar. You can

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SEAFOOD CUISINE

The Reef
1000 Embarcadero, Oakland
(510) 836-2519

Overlooking the marina, at The Reef restaurant you get quality fresh fish bought daily, with the culinary expertise from the same owners for 18 years. The menu features grilled, sautéed, broiled or Cajun seafood. Salmon, swordfish, halibut, prawns and year-round lobster plus seasonal specials are prepared to your liking. Free parking and a complimentary guest dock make this a good destination by land or sea.

MEXICAN CUISINE

The Cantina
4239 Park Blvd., Oakland
(510) 482-3073

Visualize the perfect Mexican Restaurant ... what would you create? Dishes are created with the freshest ingredients available, with cilantro and a variety of mild and hot peppers, and an extensive collection of hot sauces from around the world. Margarita's are made to tickle your taste buds. Great luncheon specials, Monday thru Saturday; Hottest

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Tsing Tao
1479 Solano Ave., Berkeley
(510) 526-6223

A fixture on Solano Avenue for over twenty years, Tsing Tao offers a varied menu. Specialty orders can be prepared with 24-hour advance notice. Over 25 luncheon specials are offered from four to six dollars. Open Mon.-Thurs. 11:30-9:30; Fri. & Sat. 11:30-10:30; Sun. 12:30-9:30.

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Chrysler Sebring convertible still leading the pack

The 2001 Chrysler Sebring convertible isn't superfast, but ever since 1996, no other manufacturer has been able to catch up with it. I'm referring to its sales record.

The reason is simple. This convertible has more marketable appeal than any other in the industry. When a convertible shopper begins comparison, he or she finds the Sebring offers more "wind-in-your-hair" value for the dollar. Other reasons for Sebring's success is that this car is not too big or too small, handles very well, has great eye-appeal, a roomy interior, a spacious trunk, and — this year — more power.

This car's attractive appearance is partially due to Chrysler's cab forward design. The new model retains its "family" characteristic of the egg-crate grille, plus a brighter head lamp that gives the front end a wider look. In the rear, the license plate has been raised up into the trunk-lid area, putting greater emphasis on the strength of the rear bumper. This design also lowers the liftover when loading the trunk.

The interior has an all-new instrument panel with bright gauges, plus chrome door handles. My tester, the LXI, features cream leather seats with dark blue trim stretching into the doors, giving the interior a wide, sporty, wraparound look.

Rear-seat passengers can sit there in comfort. The front passenger's seat slides far forward making easy entry to the rear, and the leg room is more than adequate. Rear megrim is an area where most other convertibles fall short.

The trunk also benefits from this design because the Sebring has more storage space compared to that of

Keane on Wheels

By Tom Keane

other convertibles. The boot that dresses up the appearance when the top is down has been redesigned and now can be compactly folded, taking up less storage space in the trunk.

Putting the top down takes about seven seconds. Unlike other convertibles, the car can be moving at a slow speed — under 10 mph — while the top is lowered. There's no need to put the hand brake on, as with other convertibles.

The only problem I found when the top was down is the wind whips in through the open rear onto my neck. In warmer weather, this cooling effect feels great, but I'd recommend the optional wind deflector for those who want to enjoy a convertible on cool days.

I mentioned the 2001 model has more power. Under the hood this year is a 2.7-liter V-6 engine that produces 200 horsepower. It also produces respectable fuel economy — 20 city and 28 highway. That's about 10 percent more fuel efficiency than the former 2.5-liter V6 engine with 168 horsepower.

Engine performance isn't the only area that has improved. The brakes are bigger and now employ a form of yaw control. The engineers reduced the interior noise level by injecting foam in various areas of the underbody. They also made a stronger frame which helps reduce the interior noise level.

When the top is down, the interior noise level is comparable to that of all convertibles. With the top up,



however, the padded ragtop is reasonably quiet, and ideal for listening to the 150-watt Infinity sound system. Incidentally, this year the radio system is located below the ideal position that is now occupied by the climate control system — a questionable move.

The base price of my tester, the LXI, is \$27,400. A base model with cloth seats starts at \$24,945, and the Limited has a base price of \$29,490. All three vehicles offer numerous options.

These are just a few of the reasons Sebrings move quickly out of the Chrysler dealerships. And the reasons why the competition just can't seem to catch up to them.

UNDER THE CHRYSLER SEBRING convertible's hood this year is a 2.7-liter V-6 engine that produces 200 horsepower, as well as respectable fuel economy — 20 city and 28 highway

SPECIFICATIONS: 2001 CHRYSLER SEBRING LXI CONVERTIBLE

VEHICLE TYPE	4-passenger 2-door FWD convertible
OVERALL LENGTH	181 in.
OVERALL WIDTH	65 in. 1/4 in.
HEIGHT	55 in. 1/4 in.
TURNING CIRCLE (curb)	36 ft.
CURB WEIGHT	3,000 lb.
FUEL CAPACITY	16 gal.
EPA MILEAGE RATING	20 city / 28 hwy.
ASSEMBLY PLANT	Toluca, Mexico
STRONG FEATURE	Smooth ride
WEAK FEATURE	High price

SPARE PARTS

Deer repeller

The deer population has doubled to 25 million in the last ten years, and collisions are on the rise. These collisions account for 1 million accidents per year and the cost to repair car damage from a deer collision averages about \$1,500. A product called Deer Repellent Advanced Animal Avoidance System can be mounted discreetly behind the car's grill and it will emit a high pitched sound up to 725 feet, repelling a deer from your approaching vehicle. Retailing at \$29.95, call 888/353-6835 for further information.

Tele Aid system

Motorola and Mercedes-Benz

have announced the deployment of Tele Aid, a telematics system that will provide MBUSA with the ability to offer several different services, including automatic emergency response, roadside assistance and product information, such as answering questions of providing retailer information. Tele Aid, standard on all 2001 products, will be free of charge the first year.

Higher Performance

Porsche has introduced a second version of its popular Boxster model with even higher levels of performance. Called the Boxster S, it has a more powerful engine, six-speed transmission, and cross-drilled brake disc. It retails for \$49,930.

Five Star Rating

The Honda Civic Coupe is one of the first two passenger cars ever to earn the Federal Government's top Five Star safety rating for the driver, as well as the front and rear seat passengers in both frontal and side impact crash tests, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The all-new Civic Coupe and the 2001 Volvo S80 each earned all-around Five Star ratings in the NHTSA's first-round crash test results for the 2001 model year. Frontal and side crash tests are part of NHTSA's New Car Assessment Program that provides consumers with safety information on the most common injury-causing crashes.

Web link to repair shops

The Big Three — General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler — plan to build an Internet portal that will connect car dealers with auto repair and body shops. The purpose is to entice shops to use more original manufacturer parts by creating a more efficient system for ordering supplies.

Web-based in-car info

Mercedes-Benz will be offering a customized personal web page. By a simple touch of a button, selected stock quotes, news topics, sports and weather can be downloaded and displayed on a screen in the vehicle's console area.

New wipers for winter

Be it rain, snow or something somewhere between, this is the time of year many of us have to drive with some sort of slop falling out of the sky. And it's up to our vehicle's windshield wipers to clear the wet stuff off the windshield so we can safely see where we're going.

Truth is, wipers not only wear out with use, they can also deteriorate while just sitting. So for many of us, the first time we realize that it's time to replace those wipers is when we need them. As a rule, replace those wipers at least once a year. If you can't remember when you last replaced them, they're overdue.

Truth is, however; most of us need not have to replace our wiper "blades" at all. We need only replace

the rubber wiper blade. Does this mean we can just buy a new blade and replace it? Not necessarily. The placement of the blade on the arm may need to be changed to get a clean, though not necessarily accurate, replacement.

See KNOX

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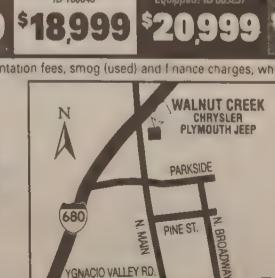
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Doctor

FROM PAGE D4

The car drives perfectly on the open road, but a problem occurs when coming to a stop or when the engine is idling. The idle speed will fluctuate and the engine will stall. Is this an indication of an expensive repair? *Dear Doctor*

Dear Doctor: You did not mention if your Accord was an LXI (the fuel-injected version). If it is fuel injected, a simple computer trouble code check can usually locate the problem. On carburetor Accords, I find a lot of vacuum leak and carburetor problems that

will cause idle and stalling problems. If the repair requires a carburetor overhaul, expect a \$400-plus repair. The cost will outweigh the long term expense of brake and clutch wear, not to mention the starter motor.

Dear Doctor: My husband and I are in disagreement on whether to shift the car into neutral or leave it in drive at stop lights. My husband says shifting into neutral is less of a strain on both the engine and transmission. I say to leave it in drive. *Sally*

Dear Sally: Automatic transmissions are designed to be left in drive at stop lights. However, if you are stuck in a traffic jam where you will be stopped for five minutes or more,

shifting into neutral is a good idea. On manual transmission equipped vehicles, it is always advisable to shift into neutral and take your foot completely off the clutch pedal.

Dear Doctor: I purchased a 1995 Lumina APV minivan with a 3.8-liter V6 engine that had 8,000 miles on it. Currently the odometer shows 28,000 miles. On my last trip from Michigan to North Carolina, the van used four quarts of oil. I was shocked. I do not drive it every day because of all the congestion in the city. I use 5W-30 oil. Would using 10W-40 oil cut down consumption? There are no leaks and no smoke out the tail pipe. *Ray*

Dear Ray: Oil consumption is up on

most vehicles. The reasons are higher engine temperatures, much thinner oil which flows easier and can slip by piston rings, and valves and valve guides. Another factor is vehicles that are not frequently driven on the highway will have unburned gasoline in the crank case. That gasoline dilutes the oil. Once the vehicle is driven at highway speeds, the hotter temperature of oil/gas mixture will evaporate and show as oil usage. The use of 10W-40 oil should help oil consumption. A quart of oil consumption at 1,000 miles or above is considered normal.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347

Know

FROM PAGE D2

In most cases, these after market companies are the same ones who make the wiper blades that come on your new car or truck.

Before replacing anything, however, do a routine inspection of the wiper assembly. Look at the blades as well as the wiper arms. These spring-loaded arms hold the blades down on the glass and move them back and forth to do their jobs.

Look for any kinks, dents, twists or bends. Make sure that the blades sit flat on the glass, end to end: slip a dollar bill under the squeegee and slide it the length of the rubber to see that it's uniformly snug to the wind-

shield. You may be able to straighten a bent or twisted arm using two pair of pliers, and you may be able to increase spring tension with a special wiper arm spring tensioner.

Otherwise, replace anything you're not sure of.

Assuming that all that needs to be replaced is the rubber insert, make sure that the blade will accept a new one.

Replacing the blade and the insert is most easily done with the blade away from the glass. Many cars have wiper arms designed to stand away from the windshield if you lift them all the way off.

If yours do not, turn on the wipers and then shut off the ignition while the wipers are mid-arc. Before you turn on the wipers, though, wet the windshield so you don't scratch it by

operating the wipers on dry, dusty glass. Take care to not let the wiper arm snap back hard against the windshield: a wiper arm without a blade can chip the glass.

Since there are different types and different length wiper blades available, make sure you buy the correct replacements for your vehicle. If you're not certain, take your old blades with you when you shop.

To remove the blade from the arm, you'll have to release a lock. This process involves prying up or down on a tab or pressing down on squeeze-together tabs.

Pliers or a small screwdriver may be helpful here. You might have to flip the blade over backwards on its pivot to release it from the arm. Check your owner's manual.

Rubber inserts thread into little

slots on the blade. The inserts, too, have to be unlocked first from the blade. Again, you may need to squeeze locking tabs at the end of the insert, or press a button or even release a lock on one of the links of the blade frame — this link will come out with the squeegee and have to be transferred to the new one. Then slide the squeegee out of the blade.

Reverse the procedure to install the replacement.

Be sure that both edges of the squeegee go through all the slots on the frame and that the lock snaps securely when it's in. For blades with a locking link, first thread the squeegee into the locking link, then into the other links.

Don Chaikin is the automotive editor for Popular Mechanics magazine.

Drive

FROM PAGE D1

How do you set the windshield wipers on intermittent? How does the dome light work? How do you reset the trip odometer?

These are simple questions; most don't come up every time you drive, but if you have to open the hood or throw some light on a map, it's helpful to have the knowledge on tap. What is the proper tire pressure? What is the capacity of the gas tank?

What fuel does the car require? What brand and weight of oil do you use?

What is your insurance agent's phone number?

A good idea, particularly if your family owns more than one car, is to compile a "car profile" on a 3x5 index

card and keep it in the glove compartment or a door pocket. Keep a copy in your wallet, adding some useful information should your car come up missing: make and model of your vehicle, VIN number, the exact color (some company's have several shades of red so know if it is Sahara Sunrise or Ruby Slipper) and your license plate number. Few drivers have all that information etched on their frontal lobes.

Should the only loss be your car keys, have their identifying numbers on the card so you can pass that information on to anyone with the ability to replace them.

You should also know some things about your car that make a difference in how you drive, such as:

Does your car have anti-lock brakes? If you have ABS, you must apply the brakes forcefully and keep the pedal firmly depressed. No pumping!

What is the turning circle of your car? This is important to know in case you have to turn around in tight quar-

ters. Your owner's manual gives you that information, but it is more meaningful to try the maneuver either on a lightly traveled street or in an empty parking lot so you know the turning limitation in feel and not as a number.

Other practical knowledge you can gain on that parking lot is how much room you need between your car and one stopped in front of you (such as at a stoplight), so you can still drive around it. Without that escape space, bad guys in two cars can pin you in place to rob you or steal your car. Try stopping so that you can see where the rear tires of the car in front meet the road. With practice you can adjust this distance for you and your car.

What is your shortest stopping distance? Attain various speeds and enlist others to signal when to start braking, and then measure from that point to where you actually stop. This distance is a revelation to many, particularly teenagers, who have the idea that stopping is all but instantaneous with

the thought. At 60 mph you'll probably need a football field with both end zones, so choose your practice venue carefully.

How fast does your car accelerate? The most important figures are 0-30 to judge your merging time and 30-60 to judge your car's response in a passing situation. Knowing these figures makes you a better judge of when to go and when to wait.

What is your vehicle's load capacity? It could take some research (owner's manual or dealer) to learn what your car weighs (full of fuel) and to determine what its load limit is. (Tires have load limits, too.) The difference between the two numbers is what the vehicle was designed to carry as a load whether in passengers, bedding, plants, lumber, luggage or ping pong balls.

Remember, in loading your vehicle, just because something fits physically doesn't mean the car can safely carry it.

Truck

FROM PAGE D1

three adults. Most six-footers should be able to sit in the rear with knees pointing forward, even with front seats completely slid back. Headroom in the rear also is suitable for most passengers, but could get tight for occupants with tall torsos. The seat back features outboard integrated headrests and an incline that prevents a park-bench effect. Unfortunately, the seat does not fold to create a flat cargo floor.

Front seats are high-back, reclining buckets with backrests and cushions moderately bolstered at the sides. Upholstery is cloth and the four-spoke steering wheel is offered with a leather grip. Tight airbag packaging allows for a small, sporty steering wheel hub. A passenger airbag cutoff switch is not included because the crew cab's rear bench easily accommodates a child seat.

Designers managed to offer four-door crew cab flexibility and maintain the same 204.8-inch length and

122.9-inch wheel base as the extended-cab model. Of course, to achieve this design, sheet metal is sacrificed at the rear. The result is cargo box length shortened to a fraction over 4 feet, 7 inches. This measurement compares to a normal short-box length of 6 feet, 8 inches. Bed width is a crew cab bragging point, measuring 5 feet, 8.6 inches vs. the usual 5 feet, 6.9 inches.

Cargo volume for the crew cab is 30.2 cubic feet, compared to a standard short box's 39.4 cubic feet. Crew cab payload capacity of 1,111 pounds falls shy of the regular 4x4 short box's 1,389 pounds. Maximum trailer weight drops 300 pounds less than that of an extended-cab, V-6, 4x4 model, to a respectable 5,200 pounds. Supplying towing grunt is the Vortec 4.3-liter V-6 engine. It cranks out 190 horsepower at 4,400 rpm and a healthy 250 foot-pounds of torque. Unlike crew cab's S-10 siblings, which come standard with a five-speed manual transmission, a four-speed automatic transmission is the sole offering. All crew cabs are equipped with Insta-Trac 4WD, with shifts executed via a tap of dash-

mounted buttons. Shifts to and from "2HI" and "4HI" can be selected on the fly, but switching to grind-em-out "4LO" requires a stop.

Bringing the crew cab's two tons to a halt is a standard four-wheel-disc braking system — a plus with all S-10 4x4s since 1998. A standard anti-lock system helps bring the truck to a controlled stop when emergency braking is needed on slick pavement.

Base priced at \$24,809, Chevy's new crew cab has arrived none too soon to defend the company's strong truck image from compact crew cabs already established in the market. Chevy's crew cab is a superb choice for active families — a functional vehicle for do-it-yourselfers and weekend warriors who routinely tote mountain bikes, water craft and all-terrain vehicles to recreational areas. The crew cab's stretched rear compartment gives it a functionality boost potential enough to redirect interests of full-size-pickup shoppers to the compact camp.

Tim Spell is automotive writer for the Houston Chronicle Cars & Trucks section.

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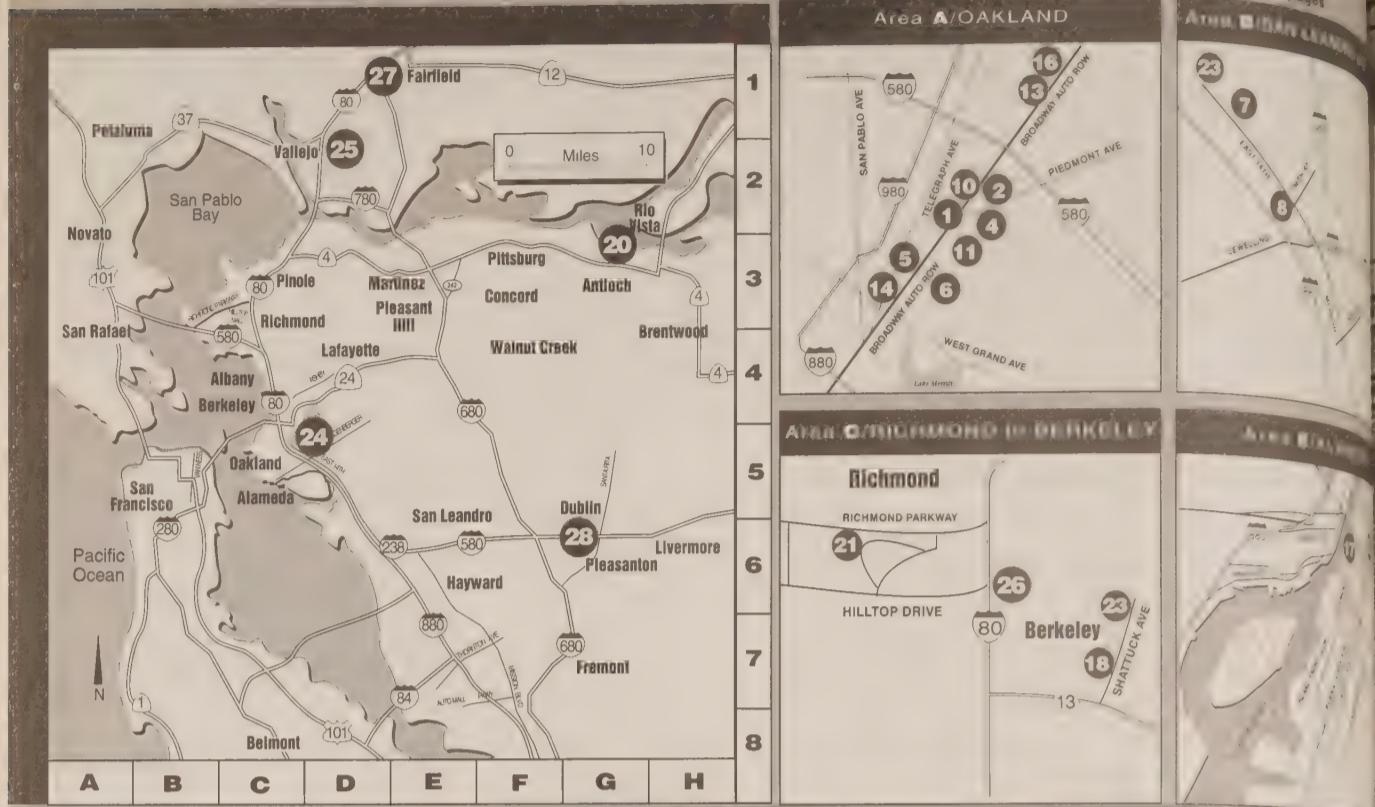
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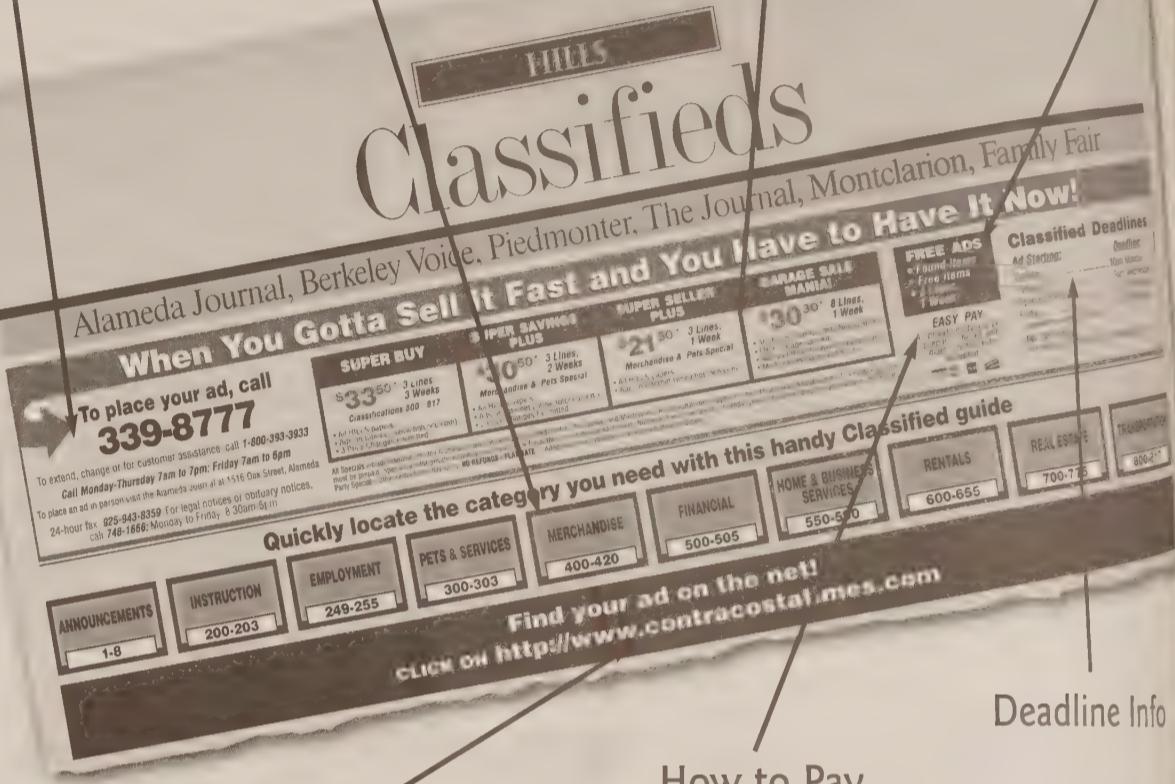
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December 29, 2000

Temptation: state-of-the-art goose

NEW YORK TIMES

Wild geese, one of the North American hunter's great prizes, are much leaner and chewier in texture than domestic geese: they work off their fat in flight. The largest is the Canada goose, which reaches a weight of 14 pounds and a wingspan of 6 feet. Domestic geese in the West, though not in China, are said to have been developed from the European graylag goose, whose scientific label is *Anser anser*.

Geese have been around the barnyard for a long time. They are among the oldest domesticated animals, along with cows and dogs. Known to the ancient Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans, they are famous for having honked loudly when invading Gauls approached the Capitol in Rome, awakening the sleeping

guards and saving the day. But the French were the first to consider geese a culinary delicacy. They were much esteemed by Charlemagne and spread rapidly across his realm.

In Austria, goose is always served on St. Martin's Day, Nov. 11.

My wife, Betsey, and I learned about this at Vienna's best restaurant, Steirer Eck, when we went there for dinner on the great day.

Utterly ignorant of the religious calendar, we ate our way happily through a holiday menu that included goose in several forms, but neither waiter nor owner could explain the custom.

Now I know.

I learned while researching this article that St. Martin was a timid priest in the city of Tours, in northwestern France, in

the fourth century. Hearing that he was to be appointed bishop, he was horrified, as legend has it, and hid in a barn so the clerical messengers could not find him.

But the cackling geese who lived there gave him away, and the goose has been his symbol ever since.

The story may be apocryphal. Certainly, there is little reason to believe the tale told in England that goose is eaten there on Michaelmas, Sept. 29, the traditional first day of fall, because Queen Elizabeth I was feasting on a goose on that day in 1588 when she received word of the destruction of the Spanish fleet.

Unfortunately for romantics, it is historically well established that the Armada

Please see GOOSE, Page 2



SCHLTZ FOODS/NY TIMES

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Eating well: caviar with a conscience

By Marian Burros
N Y TIMES NEWS SERVICE

For most people, being asked to boycott beluga caviar is less a hardship than a joke. But more than enough consumers of luxury goods will pay \$120 an ounce for these tiny status-symbol eggs to bring the sturgeon spawning them in the Caspian Sea to the brink of extinction.

A coalition of conservation groups has organized a campaign to save the beluga sturgeon and has just issued a report, "Roe to Ruin," to explain why. The decline in the population of the beluga, a creature that dates back to the dinosaur era, has been caused by pollution, destruction of natural habitat and illegal catches, particularly in the Russian part of the Caspian Sea, which is also fished by Iran.

The coalition has asked the United States to ban the sale of beluga caviar and to call for a halt in its international trade.

The coalition's slogan, "Caviar Emptor: Let the Connoisseur Beware," is part of an effort to make Americans aware that many marine species, like Patagonian toothfish (renamed Chilean sea bass for obvious reasons) and swordfish, have been dangerously depleted.

Besides a ban on beluga, the coalition wants Americans to buy less of the lower-priced but still costly varieties of wild caviar — ossetra and sevruga — and to switch to farm-raised caviar and other types of fish roe.

The United States consumes one-third of the world's caviar. Vicki Sprull, executive director of Seaweb, which, with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Natural Resources Defense Council, makes up the coalition (www.caviaremptor.org), said, "We'd like to communicate the point that it is really in bad taste to eat anything that is in such severe environmental decline, that it is not a status symbol."

After tasting some farm-raised ossetra caviar against wild ossetra, I think there is a very good chance the campaign could succeed. Processors, wholesalers, distributors and restaurateurs do not agree on the need for a ban, but they concede that something should be done or they won't have any beluga to sell.

Beluga may be the most expen-



TONY CENICOLA/NY TIMES
A COALITION of conservation groups has organized a campaign to save the beluga sturgeon.

sive caviar, but many refined palates prefer ossetra, the somewhat smaller egg from a different kind of sturgeon.

"Beluga is too bland and too soft, and I don't like it," said Eric Ripert, the chef and an owner of Le Bernardin, New York's premier seafood restaurant. "It's way overpriced. I really like ossetra." His preference was echoed by other chefs.

"If beluga is extinct, something should be done," Ripert added. "As chefs, we have to keep things in order. We cannot extinct the entire planet just to please our palates." Ripert has boycotted swordfish, and he no longer serves Patagonian toothfish.

Rick Moonen, the chef of Oceana, serves beluga because his customers want it, but he prefers ossetra. "Ossetra is always the best value," he said. "My next quest is to sample all of the alternative caviar choices. I think that's the wave of the future."

One of those caviars of the future is farmed American white sturgeon, which produce eggs similar to Caspian ossetra. The production from Tsar Nicoulai in San Francisco and Stolt Sea Farm California in Elvera, which markets its caviar un-

der the Sterling label, is small but growing rapidly. To see if aficionados might be persuaded to trade their wild caviar for the farmed variety and for alternative fish roes, I sampled six farmed American caviars and four imported wild ossetras, as well as 10 alternative fish roes. These came directly from the producers or importers, which knew of the intended purpose, so I assume they sent their best; this was not a blind tasting.

There is a lot of very good news for people who like caviar, conservationist or connoisseur. And it has nothing to do with price, because there is little difference between the wild and farmed. It takes a huge capital investment to start a sturgeon farm and many years before there is any return on investment.

The color of all the domestic or imported caviars I tasted ranges from golden to brown and black.

Of the four imported ossetras, three were superb to very good. The best was Iranian ossetra from Paramount (two ounces, \$125), with slightly crunchy eggs, richness and delicacy and a fresh, sea breeze taste.

Caviarteria's Ossetra Prime Caspian Malossol (one ounce, \$55) had the most intense flavor, a nice

crunch and that same lovely sea breeze.

Tsar Nicoulai Osetra Malossol (one ounce, \$56) had a slightly more pronounced fish flavor, with more salinity and good crunch to the eggs.

Among domestic caviars, Caviarteria's farm-raised white sturgeon American Imperial golden caviar, the highest grade, (\$110 an ounce) easily held its own against the top wild ossetras I sampled. American sturgeon is a different species but very appealing. The Imperial has a nice crunch, fine rich flavor and a pleasant fresh fish taste. This farmed caviar is from Stolt Sea Farm (Sterling).

A jar of a more abundant farmed caviar called American Classic caviar, from Sterling (one ounce, \$30), was almost as good.

Tsar Nicoulai's farmed American Ossetra (one ounce, \$56) was rich and slightly more salty than some others.

As for fish roes, anyone who prizes the taste of sturgeon caviar is not going to stick to flying fish eggs, though alternative roes offer chefs less expensive choices for garnishing and flavoring.

But please don't put them on my blini.

Low-fat cool pork 'barbecue'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
There's a secret to the easy recipe for barbecue: The meat is quickly browned in a skillet. The "barbecue" flavor comes from a vinegar and red pepper flakes.

Barbecue lovers coast-to-coast debate the best barbecue, but the consensus from North Carolina, say, but the meat is a secret.

The book features old and modern traditional and modern barbecue.

Pork 'Barbecue'

3 tablespoons packed brown sugar
2 teaspoons paprika
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon chili powder
1 1/2 pounds pork tenderloin
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
2/3 cup vinegar
1/3 cup water
1/4 cup ketchup
2 tablespoons minced onion
1 garlic clove, minced
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
4 hamburger rolls

Preheat the oven to 450 F.

In a small cup, combine 1 tablespoon paprika, 1/2 teaspoon of the pepper, cumin and the chili powder.

Place the pork on a piece of waxed paper. Sprinkle the spice mixture over the meat to help the spices stick to it.

Heat a large nonstick skillet. Sauté, Cook, turning occasionally, until the 5 minutes.

Transfer the pork to a shallow roasting

Roast until the meat reaches an internal F on a meat thermometer, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the remaining 1/4 teaspoon pepper and 1/4 teaspoon ketchup, onion, garlic and red pepper in a small bowl. Reduce the heat slightly and boil until reduced 15 minutes.

Thinly slice the pork. Combine the meat in a large bowl. Serve on the rolls with the side.

Makes 4 servings

Nutrition information per serving: 411 fat (3 grams saturated fat), 101 milligrams sodium, 39 grams carbohydrates, 2 grams protein

Goose

FROM PAGE 1

was dispersed in August 1588, not in September, and a service of thanksgiving was conducted in St. Paul's Cathedral later that month.

In both instances, the bird's life cycle is a more likely explanation.

Born in the spring, domestic geese mature between September and December, which makes them ideal for the fall and early-winter holidays, including Hanukkah, which for years has been celebrated with goose by the Jews of Paris.

James Beard was a fan, describing the goose a quarter-century ago as "one of the most flavorful and juicy birds we have, with rich, dark, succulent flesh."

He liked to save the fat thrown off during roasting and fry potatoes in it, in the manner of southwestern France, where the goose is king.

Charles Dickens also was a fan. The plump bird served at the Cratchits' table, stuffed with sage and onion, caused "such a bustle," he wrote in "A Christmas Carol," "that you might have thought a goose was the rarest of all birds, a feathered phenomenon to which a black swan was a matter of course."

The two young Cratchits, transported with joy, "crammed spoons into their mouths lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped."

Zola, in the wonderful dinner scene in "L'Assommoir": "When the goose was on the table, huge and golden and running with gravy, it was not begun upon all at once. A sort of respectful wonderment had silenced every tongue. There were winks and nods, as everybody pointed it out to everybody. What a devilish fine fat beast it was! What legs! What a breast!"

Tempted?

Roast Goose

Adapted from Union Square Cafe

Time: 6 1/2 hours

1 fresh 10-pound free-range goose
1 small onion, peeled and coarsely

chopped
1 stalk celery, coarsely chopped
1 small carrot, coarsely chopped
1 small apple, cored and coarsely chopped
1 bay leaf
8 to 10 sage leaves, coarsely chopped
1/4 teaspoon caraway seeds
10 juniper berries, lightly crushed
Freshly ground black pepper
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 cup apple cider
2 cups chicken broth.

1. Cut off wingtips at the joint. Combine them with liver and giblets in a small bowl, cover and refrigerate until needed. In a small bowl, combine onion, celery, carrot, apple, bay leaf, sage, caraway, juniper, black pepper to taste and 1-1/2 teaspoons salt.

Stuff cavity of goose with seasoned vegetable mixture and tie legs together with kitchen twine.

Goose may be prepared to this point and refrigerated uncovered for up to 24 hours.

2. Preheat oven to 250 degrees; if necessary, use an oven thermometer to verify accuracy.

Place goose on a rack in a large heavy-bottomed roasting pan.

Cover pan tightly with aluminum foil and place in oven; cook for 4 hours.

3. Remove pan from oven and uncover goose, reserving foil. Raise oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Transfer rack with goose to a large cutting board or platter.

Pour fat from pan into a heat-proof bowl to be cooled and strained for another use. (Goose fat may be stored, covered, for 1 month in refrigerator, 6 months in freezer.)

It may be used for frying or making duck or goose confit.) Return rack and goose to roasting pan and cook uncovered for 1 hour.

4. Scatter reserved wingtips, liver and giblets in pan around goose and cook for an additional hour, or until goose is golden brown and leg begins to come away from body when gently tugged.

Transfer goose to a warm platter and cover tightly with reserved foil.

Remove rack and pour off any fat, leaving wings, liver and giblets in pan.

Uncover goose, cut twine on legs and transfer vegetables inside the goose to roasting pan.

Cover goose with foil and keep warm.

5. Place pan over medium heat on one or two burners on stove. Sauté vegetables for 2 minutes.

Add cider and chicken broth; stir well. Reduce liquid by half, and season with remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and black pepper to taste.

Strain sauce and keep warm. To serve, carve goose and place meat on a warm platter.

Drizzle with a small amount of sauce, and pass remaining sauce separately.

Yield: 5 to 6 servings.

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■ Plan ahead. Think about what you want to eat and how carbohydrates and calories fit into your meal plan. If you are to be a guest, consult your host and perhaps offer to bring a dish to help your choices.

■ Eat something before a big holiday meal, to take the edge off your appetite.

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WINTER RECIPES

Quiche that leftover holiday ham

THE WASHINGTON POST

Quiche was overexposed about 25 years ago and it's still in recovery. Bring it back for an easy done-in-advance meal. If you don't have leftover ham from the holiday, buy a ham steak and cut it into cubes.

Do-ahead tips: The whole dish can done ahead of time, it actually tastes better when made at least a few hours ahead and then reheated. You can even freeze it and then reheat it directly from the freezer.

Leftover Holiday Ham Quiche

Flour for the work surface
Dough for a single pie crust
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 tablespoon butter
1 cup diced onion
3/4 pound ham, cut into 1/2-inch (or smaller) cubes
3/4 pound small zucchini, cut into 1/2-inch (or smaller) cubes
5 eggs
1 cup milk
2/3 cup heavy (whipping) cream
Freshly ground black pepper to taste
Freshly grated nutmeg to taste
4 ounces (about 1 packed cup) grated Swiss cheese

On a lightly floured surface using a rolling pin, roll out the pie dough into a rectangle slightly larger than a 9-by-13 baking dish. Carefully place the dough in the dish and press it to fit the pan. The dough does not need to go all the way up the sides. Trim the edges so they are even. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

In a large saute pan over medium-high heat, heat 1/2 tablespoon of the oil and 1/2 tablespoon of the butter until the butter melts. Add the onion and cook, stirring, until the onion softens and just begins to brown, 6 to 7 minutes. Add the ham and cook until heated through. Transfer the mixture to a bowl.

Return the pan to medium-high heat and heat the remaining 1/2 tablespoon oil and 1/2 tablespoon butter until the butter melts. Add the zucchini, increase the heat to high and cook, stirring occasionally, until the zucchini softens and just begins to brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the zucchini to the ham mixture; set aside.

In a large bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Add the milk, cream and pepper and nutmeg to taste and mix thoroughly.

Remove the crust from the refrigerator. Drain and discard any juices that accumulated in the bowl with the ham, onion and zucchini. Scatter the vegetables and ham evenly over the crust and sprinkle with the Swiss cheese. Pour the egg mixture evenly over the cheese.

Bake the quiche in the preheated oven for 45 to 50 minutes, until golden brown. Transfer to a wire rack to cool slightly. (May wrap tightly and refrigerate or freeze until ready to serve. Reheat in a 350-degree oven for 30 minutes.)

Per serving: 490 calories, 28 gm protein, 36 gm carbohydrates, 29 gm fat, 209 mg cholesterol, 14 gm saturated fat, 897 mg sodium, 9 gm dietary fiber

Winter Fruit Salad With Pineapple-Orange Syrup

(Makes about 14 cups)

Beautiful fruit salads can be made with what's available in the supermarket. The only problem is that winter fruits are not always as sweet as those available in the summer. Here pineapple, citrus, pears and apples are combined with a syrup that counteracts the tartness of most of the fruit. The salad doubles as a fruit at breakfast or lunch or a simple dessert after dinner.

You may substitute whichever fruits that you prefer.

Do ahead tips: The entire salad can be made the day before. It keeps for up to 2 days; although the fruit starts to break down a bit after a day or two but the flavors intensify.

For the pineapple-orange syrup:

1/2 cup pineapple juice, fresh (a) or canned

1 cup water

Zest from 1 large or 2 small oranges

For the salad:

1 pineapple

4 large sweet apples, such as Golden Delicious

4 ripe pears

6 large oranges

4 large grapefruits

For the pineapple-orange syrup:

In a saucepan over medium-high heat, bring the pineapple juice, water, sugar and orange zest to a boil.

Cook, stirring constantly, until the sugar dissolves. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat; set aside to cool.

For the salad: Place a cutting board on a rimmed baking sheet to catch the juice from the pineapple. Peel and core the pineapple and cut it into bite-size pieces. Peel and core the apples and pears and cut them into bite-size pieces. Place the fruit in a large bowl.

To prepare the orange and grapefruit segments, work with 1 piece of fruit at a time. Slice the top and the bottom from each fruit. Place the fruit on the cutting board with one of the cut sides down. Using a serrated knife, cut from top to bottom around the outside of the fruit to remove the peel. Then, holding the fruit in your hand, cut the orange or grapefruit segments out (the idea is to cut the fruit away from the pith and skin). When you have removed all of the fruit segments, discard the pith and peel. If the resulting pieces of orange and grapefruit are large, cut them in half or even into thirds and add to the remaining fruit mixture.

To assemble, pour the cooled syrup over the fruit and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Note: Use the pineapple juice that runs off when the pineapple is cut or use canned pineapple juice.

Per 1-cup serving: 139 calories, 1 gm protein, 35 gm carbohydrates, 1 gm fat, 0 mg cholesterol, trace saturated fat, 2 mg sodium, 4 gm dietary fiber

Baked French Toast With Apples

(6 to 8 servings)

This dish looks great when served right from the oven since the bread puffs up like a souffle. Ten minutes later, the magical puff will have deflated, but the wonderful taste will still be there. But don't skimp on the butter; without it the dish will not have the characteristic flavor of French toast.

Do ahead tips: The apple mixture can be made the day before. Assemble right before baking.

4 ounces (1 stick) unsalted butter, plus additional for the baking dish
1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
4 large tart apples, such as Granny Smith, peeled, cored and thinly sliced

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, plus additional for sprinkling on top

1 teaspoon cornstarch dissolved in 1 tablespoon cold water

12 slices firm white sandwich bread

6 eggs

1 1/2 cups milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly butter a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

In a large saute pan over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add 1/4 cup of the sugar and cook, stirring constantly, until the sugar dissolves. Add the apples and 1/2 teaspoon of the cinnamon and cook until the apples are tender and have released their juices, about 10 minutes. Add the cornstarch mixture and cook, stirring, until the mixture boils and thickens. Remove from the heat; set aside to cool slightly. (May cover and refrigerate until ready to use.)

Place 6 slices of the bread in the prepared dish. Sprinkle the bread with 1 tablespoon of the remaining sugar. Spread 2/3 of the apple mixture evenly over the bread slices.

Cover the apples with the remaining 6 slices of bread. Spread the remaining apple mixture lengthwise down the center of the bread slices.

Sprinkle the remaining 1 tablespoon sugar evenly over the bread and apples. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Add the milk, vanilla and remaining 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and mix to combine. Pour the egg mixture over the bread and apple mixture. Gently press on any exposed slices of bread to submerge them so they can absorb the egg mixture. Set aside for 5 minutes.

Sprinkle the top of the layers with additional cinnamon to taste. Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes.

To assemble, pour the cooled syrup over the fruit and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

see RECIPES on page 6



CRACKING A BLACK WALNUT demands nothing less than brute force. But as nut, it's probably worth the effort.

A timely delicacy with an iron

By Rick Marin
N Y TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Some folks back over them with a car. Others use a ball-peen hammer. An old-fashioned hand-cranked corn sheller will work, if you happen to have one down in the root cellar.

Cracking a black walnut demands nothing less than brute force. But as with many a hard nut, it's probably worth the effort. At least once.

The meat looks like regular walnut innards, but has the soft, oily texture of chestnut and a pungent, almost truffle-like taste. Black walnuts are hard to find even at this time of year, their brief season, but if you get your hands on them you want to get them open. They may be the perfect holiday nut. Impress your guests with this oddity and keep them occupied.

I had never heard of them before someone threw a bag on my desk and defied me to open one. Which is more a testament to the vast continents of my ignorance than to the obscurity of these vexing musket balls. They're a big Midwestern thing, I'm told. People who grew up with them tend to have eccentric tales of how they used to crush the rock-hard shells, and how if you don't wear gloves the black dye can stain your hands for life.

My bag of nuts came from the Union Square Greenmarket, where a few vendors have them

until after Christmas. They looked like wizened lumps of coal. I took them home and tried squeezing them in a nutcracker. Black shards went flying. Piece of cake!

Not really. I'd been warned that that was just the husk. The hard, inner shell was intact and impervious to my feeble manual squeezing. This stuff was like titanium! I wrapped one in a white towel and smashed it with a hammer. Then I threw out the towel. I took a few outside and scattered them on a manhole cover. Cars crush them all right, but you're left with a mush of meat and shell with a rubber aftertaste. My supplier loaned me the vise in his tool shop. That did the trick. But how many people have a vise in their kitchen?

Mike Robayo, the supplier, said he recognized the nuts from his country, Ecuador, where they're used in a gambling game. The nuts are placed in a circle, then the players throw a heavy steel ball at them to knock them out. Toote, it's called. They're also eaten around Christmastime though it must be women's work to crack them because my supplier had never done it.

If at first you don't succeed, I always say, throw money at the problem. For \$40.50 (plus shipping and handling), I ordered the Get Cracking nutcracker from Hammons Pantry. "The Black Walnut People," in Stockton, Mo., who also sell the nuts by mail order and over the Internet.

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Recipes

FROM PAGE 4

about 30 minutes, until cooked through. The top should be firm, not wobbly. Serve immediately.

Roast Beef, Cheddar Cheese and String Bean Chef's Salad (8 servings)

Do-ahead tips: Cut all of the ingredients ahead of time and store in plastic bags. Prepare the dressing. Refrigerate everything until ready to serve. Combine the dressing and salad ingredients at the last minute.

For the dressing: 1/3 cup red-wine vinegar, 1 teaspoon Dijon-style mustard

Pinch sugar

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
2/3 cup olive oil

For the salad: 1 pound string beans, ends trimmed, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces

8 ounces sharp white cheddar cheese, cut into matchstick strips about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long and 1/4 inch wide

1 1/2 to 2 pounds cooked roast beef, cut into matchstick strips about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long and 1/4 inch wide

1 large head romaine, green leaf or red leaf lettuce, washed, trimmed and torn into bite-size pieces

For the dressing: In a blender or a medium bowl, blend or whisk the vinegar, mustard, sugar and salt and pepper to taste. Blending or whisking constantly, slowly add the oil in a steady stream and mix until completely emulsified. Set aside.

For the salad: Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Have a large bowl of ice water ready. Add the beans to the boiling water and cook just until they are tender, 4 to 5 minutes. Drain and immediately transfer them to the bowl of ice water to stop the cooking. Drain and pat dry with paper towels.

In a very large salad or pasta bowl (you may need to use 2 bowls) combine the beans, cheddar cheese, roast beef and lettuce. Add the dressing and toss to coat. Sprinkle with freshly ground black pepper to taste and serve immediately.

Creamy Chicken and Mushrooms With Egg Noodles (8 servings)

Do-ahead tips: Everything. The chicken and mushroom mixture can be made ahead and reheated. Or the chicken and mushrooms can be combined with the cooked noodles, spread out in a roasting pan like a casserole and refrigerated. Reheat, covered tightly with aluminum foil in a 350-degree oven.

1 pound broad egg noodles

6 cups chicken stock or broth

About 12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter

8 tablespoons flour

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

1/2 cup heavy (whipping) cream

1 1/2 to 2 pounds cooked boneless chicken, cut into bite-size pieces

1 tablespoon oil

1 medium onion, finely chopped

1 pound mushrooms, thinly sliced

1/2 cup white wine

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Cook the noodles according to the package directions. Drain and set aside. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, heat the stock or broth.

Meanwhile, in a saute pan over medium-high heat, melt 9 tablespoons of the butter. Stirring constantly with a whisk or a wooden spoon, sprinkle the flour over the butter and cook for 2 minutes. Whisk or stir the butter-flour mixture into the warm stock or broth. Add salt and pepper to taste and, whisking or stirring occasionally, bring the mixture to a simmer and cook until slightly thickened.

Add the cream, reduce the heat to low and simmer for 5 minutes. Add the chicken, remove the pan from the heat and cover to keep warm.

In a large saute pan over medium-high heat, heat the oil and 1 tablespoon of the remaining butter. Add the onion and cook, stirring, until the onion softens and just begins to brown, 6 to 7 minutes. Add the onion to the chicken mixture; set aside.

Return the pan to medium-high heat, melt 1 tablespoon of the remaining butter. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring frequently, until they have released their moisture and just begin to brown. (You may need to cook in batches; if so, add another tablespoon butter.)

Add the white wine and cook until almost all the moisture has evaporated. Add the mushrooms to the chicken mixture. (May set aside to cool, then cover and refrigerate.)

Serve the chicken and mushroom mixture over the noodles or combine everything and transfer to a large serving dish.

Century-old rugelach recipe

THE BOSTON GLOBE

NATICK, Mass. — "I'm amazed at what they put in rugelach nowadays," Denise Schorr says, turning her smile into a scowl as she uses rhythmic little movements to roll out cookie dough. "Chocolate, jelly — ouch! And they don't look anything like I'm used to."

"These," she says as her smile returns, "I'm going to fill with little raisins, just raisins, because I'm a purist you see. No jazz."

Rugelach years ago went from a Jewish specialty often served at Hanukkah to a mainstream pastry that is just as easily found at the supermarket as a kosher bakery. But Schorr and other traditionalists who learned to make rugelach from a mother, grandmother, or suitable stand-in have a thing or two to say about what's become of the cream-cheese cookies in the crossover.

"Now everybody makes them so heavy with cinnamon, and sugar," says Schorr, with a charming French accent. "I like everything in moderation."

Schorr's recipe is from her Polish grandmother, Etta Polonski, who would make rugelach in the 1940s when Schorr was a teenager in Paris, working in the French Resistance during the Nazi occupation.

The recipe, which Schorr says is more than 100 years old, veers from the norm. The nuts go in, not on, the dough. The filling consists solely of a sprinkling of currants (she calls them her little raisins), plumped with water and a whisper of sugar.

Walnuts

FROM PAGE 4

the instructions said, "until the nut is cracked to your satisfaction." I liked that to my satisfaction part.

Made the whole procedure seem even more of a decadent waste of time.

The bear trap worked like a charm. Just the thing for what the accompanying brochure called "the crack-it-yourself nut enthusiast."

And instead of rolling her rugelach into the classic crescent (the name comes from the Yiddish rugel, or royal, for the crownlike shape), she pulls them into pillows.

"You can roll them, of course," she says. "But my grandmother didn't, so I never think to."

In Schorr's kitchen, where she has taught French cooking for decades, rugelach become crumbly and tender cookies, punctuated by a barely sweet dose of currants, a far cry from the jam-bursting, sometimes almost syrupy stuff found commercially.

"I'm a traditionalist," Schorr says, looking the part in a red gingham dress and ruffled apron, with two tiny whisks dangling from her neck. "Some people say the more the better, no? Well, I'm not of that school. I like the food to be what it is. I don't like jazzing up. For rugelach, the feature is really the dough."

Schorr has a kindred spirit in Barbara Haber, curator of books at Radcliffe College's Schlesinger Library in Cambridge. Haber, who says the origin is probably Austrian, researched rugelach recipes a few years ago and came up with a method to produce cookies reminiscent of those given to her family every year by a friend of her mother's.

"It's all about the pastry," says Haber, who uses sour cream in addition to cream cheese and butter in her rugelach dough. "It's kind of crisp, and the flavors are cinnamon and sugar and walnuts, and that's

Which is what I was in danger of becoming.

The first nut I cracked was chewy and flavorless, what experts call a green black walnut. The second one had the right taste. Wild like pine nuts, with an oily pungency.

Like the man says in the "Bev-erly Hillbillies" theme song when Jed Clampett strikes oil: "Black gold!" At eight for a dollar in their pesky husks and \$10 a pound, chopped, they had better be. And don't forget the manual labor.

it. Now they're full of jam and chocolate chips, and it's sort of like what happened to bagels . . . I half expect chocolate chips to start showing up in chicken."

Joan Nathan, author of the prize-winning "Jewish Cooking in America" and other cookbooks, likes the chocolate rugelach just fine but also loves them "pretty plain," with just nuts and apricots or raisins.

"When I was doing research for one book, some guy from a company sent me jalapeno rugelach, and I thought, 'Oh, boy, this is American Jewish,'" she said.

Nathan sees rugelach's roots in European pastries such as sour cream kipfel from Hungary, and says the cream cheese is an American addition, probably developed by the Philadelphia Cream Cheese Co.

Barbara Kafka, author of "Roasting" and other books, sees a link to many American Jews' ancestry in Germany or Austria, where the Christmas cookie tradition is a major issue.

"This would be a rebuttal, a way of making your own tradition with sweets that are very rich," says Kafka. "Rugelach also keep for a long time . . . They eventually solidify into a rock, but they don't really go stale in the usual way."

What's the secret to making good rugelach? They're actually pretty easy — simpler to make than to pronounce (RUG-uh-lukh). But there are some tricks. Don't overcook, or they'll be too soft; don't overcook, or they'll be too crispy.

Use the richest cream cheese possible. "There's a time and a place for fat, and you may as well enjoy it," says Marge Cohen, who teaches cooking classes through an adult education program in Newton. "You don't have to eat them all."

Be gentle with the dough ("Don't fight it," Schorr says), and, of course, hold back on all the sweet stuff. And if all else fails, return to the source. "For the holidays, you just do what your grandmother did," says Nathan. "That's one of the things that makes holiday cooking going good."



DENISE SCHORR with a batch of her freshly baked rugelach.

Denise Schorr's Rugelach

For the dough:

1 cup all-purpose flour, sifted
1/8 teaspoon salt

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
4 tablespoons cream cheese, softened

4 tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup walnuts, toasted and ground

For the filling:

1/3 cup currants
1/3 cup water

Pinch sugar

To make the dough: Combine all the ingredients and mix by hand, kneading gently until the flour is fully incorporated.

Roll out the dough into a 1/8-inch thick. Cut out and put a pinch of sugar on each.

wax paper, set aside for 2 hours or overnight. Remove the dough and let stand for 1 hour. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. To make the filling: Combine all the ingredients and mix by hand, kneading gently until the flour is fully incorporated.

Bring the cream cheese to room temperature. Roll out the dough into a 1/8-inch thick. Cut out and put a pinch of sugar on each.

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Drain and set aside.

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